

VIRGINIA TECH FARM SAFETY PROGRAM

ATV SAFETY

ATVs are an increasingly common tool for farm work. ATV-related injuries and fatalities are increasing greatly. Many injuries and fatalities occur when the operator loses control of the vehicle and rolls over or is thrown from the vehicle.

Always perform a pre-ride check to ensure your equipment is safe to use. Follow all local or state laws regarding ATV use.

ATV operators should be trained on safe use of the equipment, and have ample opportunity to practice under controlled conditions.



FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO REDUCE YOUR RISK WHEN USING ATVS.

1

CONTROL YOUR SPEED.

Speed is a major contributor to ATV injuries and fatalities. Higher speeds reduce your ability to react to changes in condition or terrain. Speed when cornering affects your center of gravity and increases the risk of a rollover.

2

WEAR YOUR HELMET.

Wearing a DOT- or Snell- certified helmet is the single most important step you can take to reduce the risk of being fatally injured when riding an ATV. Other types of helmets do not provide sufficient face and head protection.

3

KNOW YOUR TERRAIN.

Terrain can change quickly. Holes and ruts can cause you to lose control of your ATV. Be especially careful of fencing and wires. Creeks, culverts and streams can change terrain daily. Avoid riding on paved roads and cross roadways properly.

4

AVOID STEEP SLOPES.

Stay within your ATV's suggested operating range. Slopes more than 15 degrees greatly increase the risk of rollovers. Attachments and carried loads change your ATV's center of gravity and increase your risk of rollover. Stay balanced.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY**
VIRGINIA TECH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT www.ehs.vt.edu/FarmSafety

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