

**OHV's NOT  
FOR USE  
ON PUBLIC  
ROADS**



# Tips and Practice Guide for the



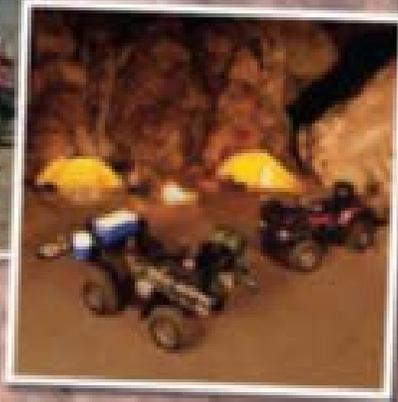
For more information contact:

**COHV CVHR**

Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council 3000  
Steeles Ave East, Suite 201 - Markham, ON L3R 4T9  
416-491-6439 1-877-470-2288 • cohv.ca

Truly off in the CAC ATV Rider Course  
nearest you, visit [www.quadcouncil.ca](http://www.quadcouncil.ca) or  
call 888-613-AQCC (2722).

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# All-Terrain Vehicle Rider

## Forward

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It is important to carefully read and follow the instructions and warnings in the ATV's owner's manual and on its labels. ATVs handle differently from other vehicles such as motorcycles and cars. Proper instruction and practice are important.

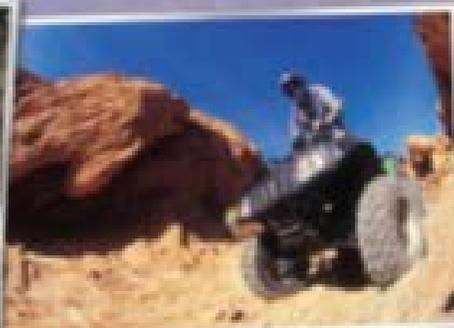
ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety, always wear a DOT-compliant helmet, goggles, long sleeves, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves. **Never ride on paved roads except to cross when done safely and permitted by law – another vehicle could hit you. ATVs are designed to be operated off-highway.** Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Never carry a passenger on a single-rider ATV, and no more than one passenger on an ATV specifically designed for for two people.

Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys. Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed. Take an intensive half day course presented by the Canadian AQCC Safety Institute (CASI). Certified instructors provide skill enhancing, hands-on training based on proven field techniques. Visit [www.quadcouncil.ca](http://www.quadcouncil.ca) or call 888-613-AQCC (2722).

The Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) is a national, nonprofit, trade association representing the responsible interests of the major ATV, off-highway motorcycle and recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV) manufacturers, distributors and retail outlets of OHV related products and services. The member companies include Honda, Can-Am BRP, Kawasaki, KTM, Polaris, Suzuki, Textron and Yamaha.

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3000 Steeles Avenue E, Suite 201, Markham, Ontario, L3R 4T9  
[www.cohv.ca](http://www.cohv.ca) 1-877-470-2288

# Tips and Practice Guide for the



## The All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

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Knowing all you can about your ATV and the places you can ride is good preparation for safe and enjoyable riding.

Remember, ATVs are intended for off-road use only. Never operate an ATV on public roads, and always avoid paved surfaces. ATVs are not designed for use on public roads and other motorists may not see you. ATVs are not designed to be used on paved surfaces because pavement may seriously affect handling and control.

ATVs are different from other vehicles, as well as from one another. The following is a list of some differences among ATVs:

- Handling characteristics among ATVs vary depending upon their basic design and how

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- There are liquid-cooled and air-cooled ATVs.
- Some ATVs have manual clutches; some have automatic clutches; some are four-wheel drive and some are two-wheel drive.
- Some ATVs have front disc brakes and some have drum brakes.
- Most ATVs have front disc brakes and some have drum brakes.
- Some ATVs have four-wheel drive and some have two-wheel drive.
- Some ATVs have shaft drive and some have belt drive.

## Terrain Vehicle Rider

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# Tips and Practice Guide

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**COHV**  
Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council  
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### The All-Terrain Vehicle

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- Keep alert to weather conditions.
- Know the weather forecasts.
- Check with local law enforcement to be sure that ATVs are allowed on snowmobile trails before using them.
- Dress appropriately for the weather conditions.

#### Crossing Roads and Highways

ATVs are designed to be used OFF-ROAD ONLY. A leading cause of accidents and fatalities to ATV riders is riding on or crossing a road illegally or improperly. The hazards of crossing roads cannot be over-emphasized, but you may find it necessary on occasion to cross a road or highway. This is particularly true in farming areas where ATVs are used for various work purposes.

- Some ATVs H
- Most ATVs h
- Some ATVs H
- Some ATVs H

- Before crossing, bring your ATV to a complete stop on the shoulder of the road.
- Yield the right of way to all oncoming traffic. Look both ways.
- Ride cautiously. Your ATV will handle differently on pavement and may be difficult to maneuver, increasing the danger of collision.
- Cross the road at a 90-degree angle where there are no obstructions and your visibility is good.
- If you are riding in a group, have the first rider (leader) dismount on the shoulder before crossing and watch for traffic as he waves the group across the road. Have the last rider dismount on the shoulder after crossing and watch traffic, to help the group leader across.
- Remember, crossing roads improperly or

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standards consist of extensive and detailed compliance requirements. Since ATVs are not intended to be used on-road, they are not designed, equipped or tested to meet such standards. Permitting on-road use of ATVs, including modified ATVs, would be in conflict with manufacturers' intentions for their proper use, and would be contrary to federal safety requirements.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has analyzed U.S. Department of Transportation's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data on ATV rider fatalities occurring on public roads. In 2015, the most recent year for which the data is available, 324 ATV riders were killed on public roads. This number has been relatively consistent

colliding with a car or truck, an obviously dangerous situation. Another CPSC study of 3,200 ATV-related deaths that occurred between 1985 and 1996 found that the most frequently reported hazard pattern (56% of all ATV incidents) involved collisions and 35% of these involved collisions with motorized vehicles.

SVIA emphasizes that ATVs are not designed, manufactured, or in any way intended for use on public streets, roads or highways and urges that on-highway use of ATVs be prohibited and that law enforcement efforts be strengthened to eliminate this dangerous practice.

## **⚠ WARNING**

Improper ATV use can result in SEVERE INJURY OR DEATH.



ALWAYS USE  
AN APPROVED  
HELMET AND  
PROTECTIVE  
GEAR



NEVER USE  
ON PUBLIC  
ROADS



NEVER CARRY  
PASSENGERS



NEVER USE  
WITH DRUGS  
OR ALCOHOL

### **NEVER** operate:

- without proper training or instruction.
- at speeds too fast for your skills or the conditions.
- on public roads-a collision can occur with another vehicle.
- with a passenger-passengers affect balance and steering and increase risk of losing control.

### **ALWAYS:**

- use proper riding techniques to avoid vehicle overturns on hills and rough terrain and in turns.
- avoid paved surfaces-pavement may seriously affect handling and control.

LOCATE AND READ OWNER'S MANUAL.  
FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS.

There will be deaths...



- **ORV fatalities are increasing**
- **Higher rates of serious injuries and fatalities occur on roads**
- **ORV incidents on roads are contributing only 7% of ER visits but 14% of hospitalizations and 40% of deaths in Peterborough County**



# Good Risk Management

- **Municipalities exist to improve quality of life**
- **Municipal leaders are expected to reduce likelihood of harm**
- **1% rule**
- **Municipal insurance rates spiraling ever higher**

# Weighing the costs and benefits

COSTS	BENEFITS
Inspecting and maintaining roads and shoulders	ATV tourism
Identifying and mitigating hazards	Transportation affordability
Installing and maintaining signs	Being outdoors together with friends
Designing and delivering education programs	
Enforcing by-law and other relevant laws	
Noise, pollution, environmental damage	



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