

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

You may know that many work-related injuries involving all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) happen in the agricultural sector. But did you know that nearly half of all work-related ATV injuries over the past five years happened in other industries? Read this fact sheet to find out what you should know about using an ATV on the job.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

Accepted disabling claims involving ATVs in Oregon

Industry	Acceptance year					Total
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	6	12	8	8	10	44
Local government	0	0	3	3	3	9
State government	3	1	1	2	2	9
Retail trade	2	1	1	1	2	7
Construction	3	2	1	0	0	6
Administrative and waste services	1	3	0	0	1	5
Arts, entertainment, recreation	0	1	1	1	1	4
Professional and technical services	0	0	0	2	2	4
Real estate, rental, leasing	0	0	0	4	0	4
Wholesale trade	0	0	0	2	1	3
Accommodation and food services	0	0	1	0	1	2
Manufacturing	0	0	1	0	0	1
Transportation and warehousing	0	0	0	0	1	1
Utilities	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other services	0	0	0	1	0	1
Educational services	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	16	20	18	24	24	102

ATV classifications

In Oregon, there are three ATV classes:

- **Class I** – “a motorized, off-highway recreational vehicle 50 inches or less in width with a dry weight of 800 pounds or less that travels on three or more low pressure tires, has a saddle or seat for the operator and is ... capable of cross-country travel....” [ORS 801.190]
- **Class II** – “a motor vehicle that weighs more than a Class I all-terrain vehicle; is ... capable of cross-country travel...; and is actually being operated off a highway or is being operated on a highway for agricultural purposes under ORS 821.191” [ORS 801.193]
- **Class III** – off-road motorcycles that weigh less than 600 pounds [ORS 801.194]



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Riding risks and hazards

Paved roads. ATVs can be difficult to control on paved roads, even at slow speeds. And they're hazards for other motorists who pass them on highways.

Excessive speed and rough terrain. ATVs make it easier to reach remote locations but drivers need to be aware of rocks, logs, ditches, and other obstacles. Excessive speed limits reaction time and increases the risk of overturning the vehicle or striking an unmarked object.

Steep slopes. ATVs are easy to overturn, especially on steep slopes. Inexperienced drivers tend to overestimate an ATV's stability on such terrain. Traversing slopes on three-wheel vehicles is particularly dangerous.

Passengers and unstable loads. Most ATVs are not designed to carry passengers; an extra rider doesn't have a secure place to stand or sit and makes the vehicle unstable. Improperly secured cargo also affects an ATV's stability.

Can I operate an ATV on a highway?

You can operate a Class I ATV on a highway if you're doing ranching, farming, or agricultural work and your vehicle doesn't exceed 20 miles per hour, stays close to the right-hand side of the highway, has a lighted headlight, and displays a slow-moving vehicle emblem.

Getting trained

Riders who use an ATV for farming, agriculture, forestry, nursery, Christmas tree growing operations, or riding on private land are exempt from any Oregon-required training. However, all other operators (Oregonians and non-residents) of Class I and Class III ATVs must take the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's online *ATV Safety Course* by the following dates before they ride on public lands. [www.rideatvoregon.org/]

- 30 and under Jan. 1, 2010
- 40 and under Jan. 1, 2011
- 50 and under Jan. 1, 2012
- 60 and under Jan. 1, 2013
- All riders Jan. 1, 2014

Class II ATV users are exempt because a driver's license is required to operate them.

Using protective equipment

Essential protective equipment should include a motorcycle helmet with a fastened chinstrap, over-the-ankle boots, goggles or face shield, and off-road style gloves.

Riders under 18

Anyone under the age of 18 who rides an ATV on public lands must wear a DOT (or Snell) approved motorcycle helmet with the chinstrap fastened. Though a good idea, this requirement doesn't apply if the ATV is:

- Used exclusively in farming, agricultural or forestry operations or used by persons licensed under [ORS chapter 571](#) exclusively for nursery or Christmas tree growing operations
- Being used on land owned or leased by the owner of the vehicle
- A street-legal Class II vehicle registered in Oregon

Guidelines for riding on public lands

Adapted from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, All-Terrain Vehicle program (FAQs)

- A valid operating permit from Oregon (or a state that has a reciprocal agreement with Oregon) is required.
- Mufflers must be no louder than 99 decibels. Lower levels are required on some public lands.
- Lights must be used before sunrise, after sunset, or when visibility is less than 100 feet.
- Red flags displayed nine feet above ground are required when riding on sand (for example, Sand Lake, Oregon Dunes, and Christmas Valley).
- Working brakes are required.
- Windshield wipers are required on any vehicle equipped with a windshield.

Further reading and browsing

- ORS Chapter 821: Off-Road Vehicles; Snowmobiles; All-Terrain Vehicles www.leg.state.or.us/ors/821.html
- OAR 735-116-0000: Safety Equipment Standards for Off-Road Vehicles http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_700/OAR_735/735_116.html
- ORS Chapter 571: Nursery Stock; Licensed Crop and Christmas Tree Growers, Handlers and Dealers www.leg.state.or.us/ors/571.html
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, All-Terrain Vehicle program: www.oregon.gov/OPRD/ATV/qa.shtml
- The Oregon Online ATV Safety Education Course: www.rideatvoregon.org/
- Hazards Associated with All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) in the Workplace — Safety and Health Information Bulletin, OSHA: www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib080306.html