

# WORKING WITH QUADS & ATVS

Quads and All-Terrain Vehicles have inherently unstable design features to maximise manoeuvrability.

The injuries from these vehicles can often be fatal because they achieve high speeds and there is no roll bar to protect the drivers head or neck if the ATV overturns.

## Before starting the task **STOP** and think...

Ensure only persons authorised and officially trained with the safe operation or those undergoing supervised training are allowed to operate the ATV.

Do you always wear a helmet? If not, why not? ATVs are not fitted with cabs or roll bars, so your only protection is what you wear.

Have you had proper training? Why not attend a certified training course? (i.e. EASI ATV Rider course or LANTRA).

Is your ATV adequately maintained? When was the last time you carried out a pre-shift check of the ATV



## REMEMBER...

- Ensure loads on racks are secure, evenly balanced and do not exceed the capacity of the ATV.
- Wear PPE that covers and protects your arms and legs. Gloves are useful for protection and handlebar muffs can help keep hands warm in cold weather for good control of the ATV.
- Wear sturdy, ankle supporting footwear which have a good wet grip and high visibility clothing (this may help locate you from the air if you do fall off).
- Riding an ATV requires a lot of body movement so do some warm up stretches to prevent muscle strain.
- Protect your eyes with either a visor or goggles and always wear a helmet.
- Keep to planned routes where possible. Walk new routes to check for hidden obstructions, hollows or hazards.
- Allow for changes in ground conditions and for the destabilising effect of loads or attachments.
- Keep a look out for pedestrians, livestock, vehicles and other obstructions.
- Follow SAFE STOP procedure if you need to check equipment or carry out maintenance:

**Fully apply handbrake  
Put all controls in neutral  
Stop the engine  
Remove the key from the ignition**

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## TOP TIPS:

- ✓ **Safe stop**  
Handbrake on, controls in neutral, engine off and remove keys!
- ✓ **Always plan your route and check ground stability**
- ✓ **One seat = one bottom.**  
Passengers are not allowed to travel on ATVs used as light agricultural vehicles.
- ✓ **Use your head**  
Always wear a helmet when riding an ATV.
- ✓ **Always ride at a safe speed and know your limits.**

Children under 16 must not drive, operate or help to operate ATVs.

## NEVER

- Operate an ATV unless you are trained and authorised to do so.
- Make sudden increases in speed. This is a common cause of rearward overturning accidents.
- Put your foot on the ground to stabilise an ATV when riding.
- Tow a load from anywhere other than the hitch point.
- Overload the racks.
- Drive an ATV when under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Use ropes or chains to drag a load - they can become caught on a wheel.
- Hold a spraying lance or any other equipment while riding the ATV. You need both hands for safe control.
- Use a mobile phone or other hand held device while operating.



## CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Fuel**  
If the ATV has been unused for several months, drain the tank and refill with fresh fuel.
- ✓ **Tyres**  
Ensure tyres are at the right pressure for the terrain and have good threads. It is always a good idea to check for nails in the side wall.
- ✓ **Brakes**  
Brake pads must be 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch thick MINIMUM for a light day of riding. Check pad wear.
- ✓ **Oil**  
Check oil level before each ride.
- ✓ **Steering**  
Look over steering connections to the wheels. The tie rods are wearable.
- ✓ **Grips**  
If the grips are falling apart, replace them.