

ATV use and Safety Recommendations

The following are some recommendations for choosing an ATV for Utility use and safety training resources available to insure your riders are adequately trained to use the ATV in a safe and professional manner.

ATV crashes kill and injure hundreds of people each year in the United States. Due to the high number of ATV crashes that occur every year, consumer groups, medical professionals, utility contractors, environmentalists, and child safety advocates are very concerned with changing the ATV industry's failing approach at safety. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons believes ATVs are a significant threat to public health. These health professionals are often the ones who witness the serious injuries and death caused by ATV crashes.

ATV crashes send thousands of people to the hospital every year. In 2000 alone, at least 254,000 people who were injured in ATV crashes required medical treatment. Between 200 and 300 people die every year in ATV crashes. Thirty to forty percent of all people injured or killed in ATV crashes are children under the age of 16. Fifteen percent of the fatal ATV crashes take the lives of children under 12. The US Consumer Product Safety Council estimates that ATV crashes cost society a total of \$6.5 billion in medical, legal, and work loss expenses every year.

ATVs, or all-terrain vehicles, are dangerous because they have a high center of gravity, lack suspension, have no rear wheel differential, and are less stable at high speeds. Most ATV crashes are the product of ATV misuse, driver inexperience, and/or intoxication. ATV misuse can include riding at excessive speed, riding at night without proper gear, and riding in inappropriate areas. Ten percent and twenty five percent of those injured and killed in ATV crashes, respectively, were riding on paved roads, streets, or highways where ATVs are not safe to use. Driver inexperience is a huge factor which contributes to the high volume of ATV crashes occurring each year. According to statistics, people are thirteen times more likely to cause ATV crashes in their first month of ATV use, compared to more experienced riders. Intoxication from drugs or alcohol is involved in thirty percent of all ATV crashes. Most states apply DUI/DWI laws in ATV crashes involving intoxication.

Head injuries are the number one cause of death in ATV crashes. Consistent use of a good helmet can save lives in ATV crashes. Non-fatal injuries common in ATV crashes include head and spinal cord trauma, abdominal damage, fractures, abrasions, lacerations, and the like. Protective clothing, special training and rider education, proper use of the ATV, and the like are all integral steps towards preventing ATV crashes.



There are lot's of choices in ATV's today. With prices ranging from under \$3000 to over \$10000.



We all know that ATV's can improve productivity, increase payload capacity and allow access to places in the Right of Way that traditional trucks cannot access.

When choosing an ATV for your workers you will want to consider some options.

- Simplicity of controls and operation.
- Will they need to carry a payload?
- How much rough terrain will they be required to traverse?
- How fast will they need to go?
- What training is needed or required?
- How much maintenance will be needed?

In many cases the traditional ATV/ 4-wheeler is adequate.

They usually come with racks for storage

Usually pretty fast, many over 50 MPH

Drive shafts are usually lower maintenance and tougher than belt or chain drives

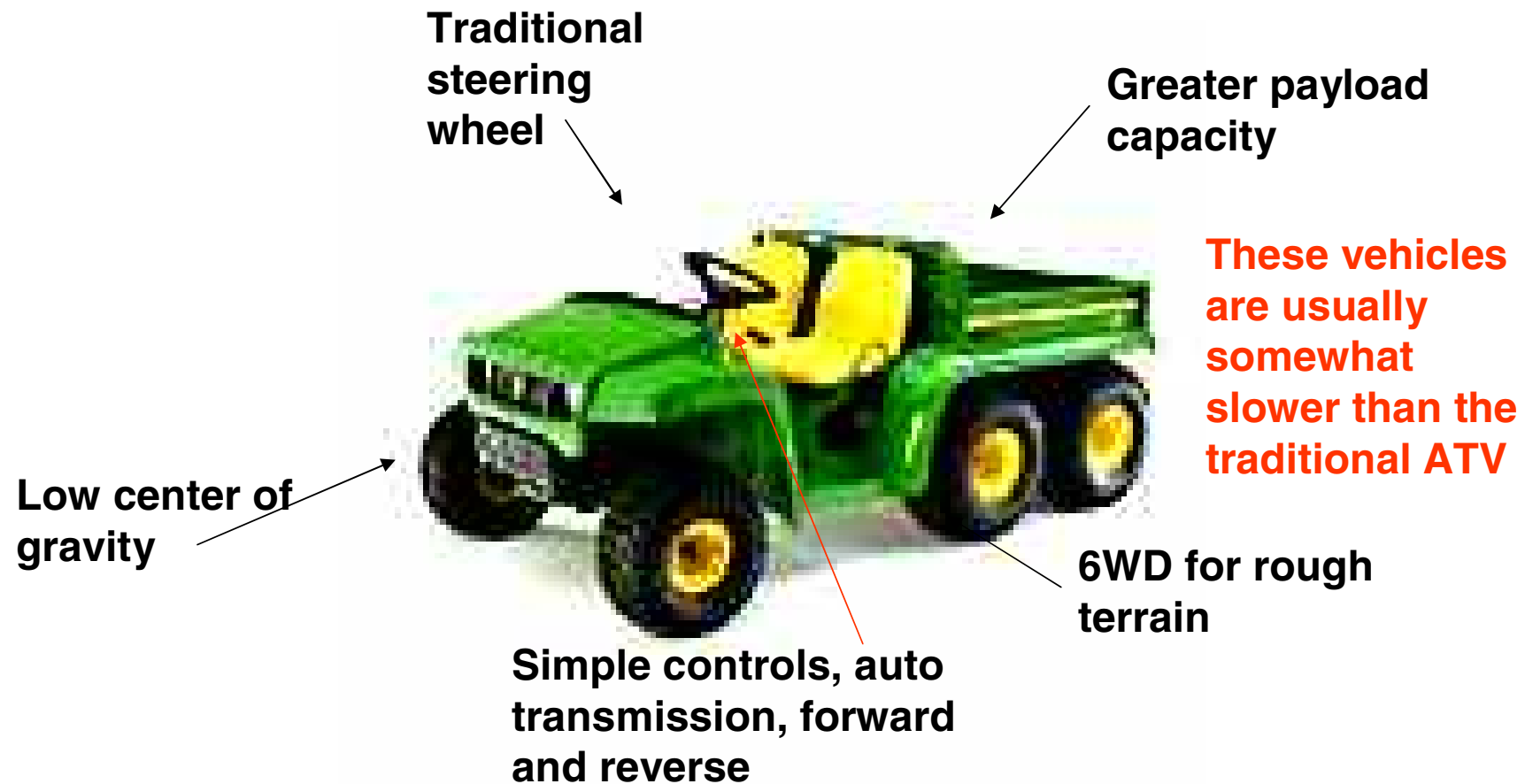
High center of gravity can cause tipping and rolling

Many can be ordered with Auto transmission for ease of controls

4WD for rough terrain



Many Companies are choosing to use less traditional vehicles categorized as Utility Vehicles, they have some advantages, but prices increase.



What about training?

The ASI was created some years ago to provide criteria and standardization for ATV training and safety. They have become the organization supported by the ATV manufacturers to train riders and other trainers to properly operate ATVs. Virtually all training programs originate from the ASI course.

Some Elements of the Class



About the ASI

The All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute® (ASI), a not-for-profit division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America® (SVIA), was formed in 1988 to implement an expanded national program of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety education and awareness. ASI's primary goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATV's, thereby reducing accidents and injuries that may result from improper ATV operation by the rider.

The ATV operator injury rate has substantially declined since 1984. This is due, in part, to the ASI's expanded safety education and public awareness programs. The ASI will continue to be an information source about ATV standards, promote model state legislation on ATV riding, and serve as a liaison with state and federal agencies on ATV training and environmental issues. Based on SVIA safety programs developed since 1983, the ASI leads the way in expanding and implementing ATV rider-training programs nationwide.

More than seven million people ride all-terrain vehicles. Besides recreational use, ATVs also serve agriculture, business, commercial industry and nearly 700 government and law enforcement agencies with on-the-job transportation and other uses.

Safer ATV riding is a top priority for [Arctic Cat](#), [Bombardier](#), [Honda](#), [John Deere](#), [Kawasaki](#), [Suzuki](#), [Tomberlin](#) and [Yamaha](#), the leading U.S. distributors of all-terrain vehicles. These distributors offer free hands-on training to all individuals who have purchased new ATVs, including the purchaser's eligible family members.

ASI TOLL-FREE INFORMATION

For information regarding training in your area, call (800) 887-2887.

For information on ATV safety issues, call (800) 852-5344.

You can also enroll online by choosing a zip code that will show class locations and dates coming up close to your area

<https://online.svia.org/Training/Enroll/EnterZip.aspx>

Local training is conducted through Pro Dirt and Roadway in Wentzville

Midwest Motor Sports of Hartford, Il and other private trainers

Another resource is listed below.

**John Ruff
Mautino Cycle
Chillicothe, MO
660-646-6060**

Cost is \$125/person with a minimum of four per class. The field class is four hours long and the agenda is as follows:

**General ATV upkeep/maintenance
Personal Safety Apparel
Turning your ATV safely
Forward Vision
Braking
Braking during a turn
Parking your ATV
Traversing Hills- both side-hilling and up/down
Slalom- several exercises**

As a final reminder, always try to gain landowner consent before accessing any private owner land whether with an ATV or even on foot. Many landowners use ATV's for general use on their farms or extended property, however, some take exception to any other motorized vehicle on their property.

Pay particular attention to fences, gates and crops!

