

Your acknowledgment is a crucial first step in prioritizing safety while operating a rental ATV. All-terrain vehicles can be extremely fun, but they are powerful and require skill and focus to operate safely. Failing to follow common safety guidelines can lead to serious injuries, permanent disabilities, or even death, not only for yourself but for others as well.

Here are the essential safety guidelines and common hazards you must be aware of when operating a rental ATV.

### **Gear and preparation**

- **Wear a helmet:** A Department of Transportation (DOT)-compliant helmet is the single most effective piece of safety equipment and is often legally required. Head injuries are a leading cause of death and serious injury in ATV accidents.
- **Use proper protective clothing:** Wear goggles or a face shield to protect your eyes from debris, branches, and dust. A long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves, and over-the-ankle boots protect you from abrasions, scrapes, and burns.
- **Inspect the vehicle:** Before each ride, perform a quick check of the ATV's essential components. This includes the brakes, tires, throttle, and fluid levels.

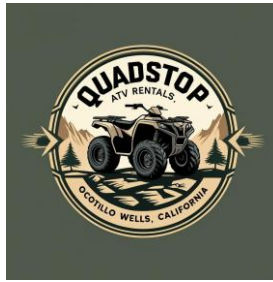
### **Riding best practices**

- **Stay off paved roads:** ATVs are designed for off-road use and handle poorly on pavement. Riding on paved roads can cause loss of control and increases the risk of a collision with a car.
- **Never drive under the influence:** Operating an ATV while impaired by drugs or alcohol is illegal and can have life-threatening consequences.
- **Ride at a safe speed:** High speeds increase the risk of an accident and reduce your reaction time to unexpected obstacles or turns. Always ride at a pace that is safe for your skill level and the terrain.

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- **Avoid carrying passengers on single-rider ATVs:** Most ATVs are designed for a single rider. Carrying a passenger on a single-seat ATV can raise its center of gravity and make it unstable, increasing the risk of a rollover.
- **Know your riding terrain:** Stay on designated trails and familiarize yourself with the area. Be aware of potential hazards like steep slopes, deep ruts, or drop-offs.
- **Shift your weight correctly:** An ATV requires you to actively shift your body weight to maintain balance and control.
  - **On flat ground:** Keep your feet firmly on the pegs and stay relaxed.
  - **Uphill:** Lean forward and stand slightly to keep the front wheels on the ground.
  - **Downhill:** Shift your weight to the rear and use a lower gear.
  - **Turning:** Lean into the turn while keeping your weight on the outside foot peg.

### Common accident scenarios

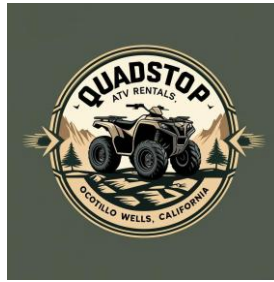
- **Rollovers:** This is one of the most common and dangerous types of ATV accidents. It can happen on uneven terrain, during sharp turns, or by carrying more weight than the ATV is designed for.
- **Collisions:** Collisions with trees, rocks, or other objects can occur due to excessive speed, lack of attention, or poor judgment.
- **Ejection:** Being thrown from the ATV can result in head and spinal injuries. Wearing a helmet and protective gear is the best defense against this outcome.
- **"Mousetrapping":** A rider's limbs can get caught under the ATV during a rollover, which can cause severe crush injuries.

By committing to these safety guidelines, you significantly reduce the risk of accidents and ensure that your experience is as safe and enjoyable as possible.

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