



# RIDING WITH A WHOLE NEW RESPECT

Promoting All-Terrain Vehicle Safety  
in your community  
Ministry of Transportation  
November 2008



# Legislation

- ◆ In Ontario, there are two pieces of provincial legislation which govern ATV use:
  - ◆ *Off Road Vehicles Act*
  - ◆ *Highway Traffic Act*

# Legislation

## *Off Road Vehicles Act*

- ◆ Operator must be at least 12 years of age; or
- ◆ Be under the direct supervision of an adult; or
- ◆ Operating an ATV on land occupied by the owner
- ◆ ATV must be registered
- ◆ ATV must be insured
- ◆ Approved motorcycle helmet must be worn by driver and passenger



# Legislation

## *Highway Traffic Act*

- ◆ To travel on some provincial highways, an ATV must meet certain criteria
- ◆ The ATV must meet the requirements of the federal *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* and American National Standards Institute standard



# Legislation

Permitted on Some  
Roads in Ontario



# Legislation

Prohibited on All Roads in Ontario



# Legislation

## Highway Traffic Act

- ◆ Operator must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid G2/M2 driver's licence or greater
- ◆ Operator must wear an approved motorcycle helmet
- ◆ ATV must travel on the shoulder of the road in the same direction as traffic



# Legislation

## Highway Traffic Act

- ◆ ATV must be registered and insured
- ◆ Speed limit is lower than posted limits
- ◆ Towing of trailers is permitted provided HTA requirements are met



# Legislation

## Highway Traffic Act

- ◆ ATVs cannot operate in:
  - medians between opposing lanes of traffic
  - construction zones
  - provincial parks unless permission is granted



# Growth of ATV Industry in Ontario

- ◆ Canada is the second largest market for ATV sales
- ◆ 88,500 new ATVs were sold in Canada in 2007 (18,100 in Ontario)
- ◆ In the last three years, almost 264,000 ATVs have been purchased in Canada



# Growth of ATV Industry in Ontario

- ◆ There are over 1.027 million ATVs currently in use in Canada
- ◆ It is estimated that more than 2.5 million Canadians ride an ATV each year
- ◆ In 1997, snowmobiles outsold ATVs by more than two to one
- ◆ Since 2004, this trend has reversed



# Who's Dying on ATVs in Ontario...and Why?

2007\*

◆ Total	26	
◆ Males	24	(92%)
◆ Females	2	(18%)
◆ Lost control	20	(77%)
◆ Alcohol	13	(50%)
◆ Struck object	11	(42%)
◆ Roll over	9	(35%)
◆ Excessive speed	6	(23%)
◆ Not wearing helmet	6	(23%)
◆ < 18 years	1	( 4% )



# Who's Dying on ATVs in Ontario...and Why?

2008 to date\*

◆ Total	20	
◆ Males	16	(80%)
◆ Females	4	(20%)
◆ Lost control	11	(55%)
◆ < 18 years	9	(45%)
◆ Roll over	8	(40%)
◆ Excessive speed	6	(30%)
◆ Struck object	6	(30%)
◆ Alcohol	5	(25%)
◆ Not wearing helmet	2	(10%)



# ATV Injuries in Ontario

## Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)

- ◆ Hospitalizations for ATV injuries in Canada have increased by 66% in the last ten years
- ◆ Teens and adults are at highest risk
- ◆ Ontario and BC have lowest injury rates



# ATV Injuries in Ontario

## Highlights of CIHI Report:

- ◆ Most ATV hospitalizations in 2004-2005 were for multiple injuries.
- ◆ Average age of person hospitalized was 32 years old.
- ◆ Largest proportion of injuries:
  - 15 to 19 year olds
  - 20 to 24 year olds



# ATV Injuries in Ontario

## Highlights of CIHI Report:

- ◆ Largest increase in ATV related injuries was among 20-24 year olds (41%)
- ◆ Head injuries accounted for 19% of ATV related hospitalizations
- ◆ 19 Ontarians visited an ER for ATV related injuries each day in 2004-2005
- ◆ 80% of ER visits were by males



# Coroner's Inquest

- ◆ Held in Eastern Ontario in August 2005
- ◆ Examined the death of a 7 year old boy who was driving an ATV on a municipal road one year earlier
- ◆ 6 recommendations were put forward by the jury for consideration



# Coroner's Inquest

## Jury Recommendations:

- ◆ Mandatory approved safety training and operator's licence at age 12 years to operate an ATV
- ◆ permitted to drive an ATV on approved trails only at age 12-16
- ◆ At 16 years of age or older without a valid driver's licence, must have an operator's certificate to operate ATV



# Coroner's Inquest

## Jury Recommendations:

- ◆ Increased public education
- ◆ Yearly registration and insurance of ATVs
- ◆ Manufacturers of ATVs be more pro-active in providing information on safe operation of ATVs



# Coroner's Inquest

## Current Status:

- ◆ Five of six recommendations directed towards Ministry of Transportation
- ◆ MTO is undertaking a comprehensive review of Ontario's Off Road Vehicle Legislation
- ◆ Includes leading a multi-stakeholder review of the jury's recommendations



# Coroner's Inquest

## Current Status:

- ◆ Reviewing education and training programs for young riders
- ◆ Examining the minimum age for off-road vehicle operators



# Coroner's Inquest

## Current Status:

- ◆ Annual registration and insurance of ATVs
- ◆ Continue to promote ATV safety and safe riding practices in Ontario



# Regional ATV Safety Initiative



- ◆ Collaboration between several community partners in Northeastern Ontario
- ◆ Identified a need to promote ATV safety awareness in our regional communities
- ◆ ATVs being used for recreation and as a mode of transportation
- ◆ Tremendous growth in ATV use in Northeastern Ontario

# Regional ATV Safety Initiative

- ◆ Few resources existed to address the issues that were identified as being important
- ◆ Established a budget and applied for funding to assist with the development of public education materials
- ◆ Partnered with a creative photographer and began preliminary discussions



# Regional ATV Safety Initiative

- ◆ Two public education products were developed
  - card format
  - Posters developed to provide sustainability to the messages



# Regional ATV Safety Initiative

## GOOD 2 GO? *Not in Ontario*



PHOTOGRAPHED BY ED ENG DESIGNED BY RICHARD M. FERENCE

## GOOD 2 GO?

There are more than 20 errors on the front of this card. Can you spot them all? Riding an off-road vehicle can be a fun, exciting activity, but it's important to know how to ride safely. Below are some safety tips to follow to help ensure a safe trip every time!

- Always wear an approved motorcycle helmet. A bicycle or hockey helmet is not good enough!
- Always ride sober! No alcohol or drugs before or while riding.
- Be prepared! Carry a cell phone and emergency kit that includes a map, flares, flashlight, compass, blanket, first aid supplies, matches and a sounding device.
- Always wear proper eye protection, not sunglasses. A face shield or goggles are best.
- Always wear protective clothing: boots, gloves, pants and a long sleeved shirt or jacket.
- Conduct a pre-ride inspection before heading out. Check oil and gas levels, brakes, lights and winch.
- Always obey speed limits! A maximum of 20 km/h on roads with a limit of 50 km/h; a maximum of 50 km/h on roads with a limit of more than 50 km/h.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for passengers. They can affect the stability and control of the ATV.
- Carry your documents; registration, insurance and driver's licence when riding on roads.
- When travelling on roads, ride on the shoulder and in the same direction as traffic.
- To ride off-road, you must be at least 12 years old unless under close adult supervision. To ride on roads, you must hold a valid G2/M2 licence or greater.
- Always ride within your ability and know your limitations. Consider taking a rider training course to become a skilled, confident rider.
- Be a responsible rider! Ride in designated areas only, respect private property, watch for wildlife and keep noise levels low.
- Young riders lack the physical strength, experience and cognitive skills to operate an off-road vehicle. Know their limitations and follow age and size restrictions for specific types and sizes of machines.



For more information about off-road vehicle legislation, please visit [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca).

Ministry of Transportation  
Adapted with permission from



# Regional ATV Safety Initiative



PHOTOGRAPHED BY ED ENG. DESIGNED BY RICHARD M. TERENCE

## RIDING WITH A WHOLE NEW RESPECT

### RIDING WITH A WHOLE NEW RESPECT

In a matter of a few seconds your life can change forever. At 16, I thought it couldn't happen to me, but it did. As a result of an ATV crash, I became a paraplegic paralyzed from the waist down. Many factors contributed to my rollover: two people on the ATV; a downhill corner; excessive speed; impaired judgement; and no helmet.

I am very fortunate to have survived this preventable collision. Today, I still ride, but I ride with a whole new respect. Take it from me—think about safety and use common sense. Ride with a whole new respect. Avoid facing a life-altering situation. Please ride safe and have fun!

*Kevin McKenna*  
Kevin McKenna



#### While Riding

- Stay in control at all times and always ride within your ability. Remember...speed kills!
- Drive sober. Consuming alcohol or drugs before riding impairs judgement and slows your reaction time.
- Always wear an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection and appropriate footwear.
- Always wear protective clothing such as long sleeved shirts, long pants and leather gloves.

#### Cornering

- Ease off on the throttle while entering a corner.
- Never take a corner at a speed you can't control.
- Begin wide turns by leaning your upper body into the turn to maintain control of the machine.
- Make sharp turns by shifting your whole body towards the inside running board.

#### Climbing Hills

- Keep your feet firmly planted on the footrests.
- Shift into a lower gear and maintain a steady speed before you begin to climb the hill.
- Move forward in the seat.
- Lean forward or stand if necessary to put your body weight on the front wheels.



# Regional ATV Safety Initiative

**GOOD  
2GO?**  
*Not  
in Ontario*

**SAFETY IS OUR FIRST CONCERN**

Although this is a humorous approach to promoting ATV safety, riding safely and responsibly is no laughing matter. Pick up a reference card of the many legislative requirements for operating an ATV in Ontario. It also outlines safe riding practices that will reduce your risk of injury. For more detailed information about on-road and off-road ATV legislation, please refer to [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILLY GIBSON FOR HOWARD H. FRONZ

ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO  
ECPIR  
MATZAWA  
MANITEX SALES

**RIDE WITH RESPECT**

In a matter of a few seconds your life can change forever. While riding, stay in control and always ride within your abilities. Pick up a reference card of the many legislative requirements for operating an ATV in Ontario. It also outlines safe riding practices that will reduce your risk of injury. For more detailed information about on-road and off-road ATV legislation, please refer to [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO  
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MATZAWA  
MANITEX SALES

ROAD SAFETY  
it starts with you  
Ministry of Transportation

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILLY GIBSON FOR HOWARD H. FRONZ

# Regional ATV Safety Initiative

## Distribution

- ◆ Public education initiative was launched in March 2007
- ◆ 40,000 cards and 1,200 posters were printed and distributed in Northeastern Ontario
- ◆ Products available in both English and French





# Riding With A Whole New Respect

## Additional Resources:

- ◆ [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)
- ◆ [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)
- ◆ [www.cihi.ca](http://www.cihi.ca)
- ◆ [www.smartrisk.ca](http://www.smartrisk.ca)
- ◆ [www.cohv.ca](http://www.cohv.ca)