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ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES TO THE RESCUE ATVs Help Public Service Workers Respond

Irvine, Calif. – All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) increasingly have become a rescue/search solution for public service and law enforcement agencies around the country.

“These modern-day workhorses are pressed into public service because they are versatile and reliable tools for carrying a rescuer or law enforcement agent and equipment to hard-to-reach places,” said Elisabeth Piper of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA).

Numerous examples showcase the ATV’s unique ability to help public service officials come to the rescue:

- ATVs were employed for search, rescue and clean-up efforts at the World Trade Center following 9/11
- ATVs were on the ground in Texas as part of the search effort for the remains of the Columbia Space Shuttle.
- Law enforcement officers, riding ATVs, successfully searched for a missing 8-year-old boy near his home in the Atlanta area. In Houston, rescue teams took to ATVs in their successful search for a missing 12-year-old girl.
- In Southern California, rescue workers rode ATVs to find a missing hiker near Riverside and a blind hiker in the San Gabriel Mountains.

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- Midwestern rescuers, hampered by flood damage, carried life-saving equipment on ATVs.
- In Pennsylvania, a fire department used ATVs to round up a farmer's escaped cattle.

Overall, more than 1,000 governmental agencies have purchased ATVs to efficiently carry out their functions, according to a survey of ATV dealers. The buyers range from police agencies to U.S. agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture, to the U.S. military, which used 5,000 ATVs during the Gulf War.

“Americans expect their public service officials to respond to emergency situations quickly and efficiently over a wide range of terrain. It's no surprise that agencies are turning to ATVs when every second counts,” said Piper.

The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America[®] (SVIA) is an information source about the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) industry. SVIA provides information on ATV standards as well as promoting model state legislation on ATV riding. It also serves as a liaison with state and federal agencies on ATV training and their influence upon the environment. Membership is open to all corporations regularly engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing or wholesale distribution of ATVs in the United States. SVIA was formed in 1983 as a national not-for-profit trade association and is based in Irvine, California. Its members include AlphaSports, Arctic Cat, Bombardier, Honda, John Deere, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha.

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