



May 2008

Dear North Carolina Educators:

As the school year draws to a close, the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute would like to ask educators to impress upon students and their parents the importance of all-terrain vehicle safety. Summer vacation marks a time when students have more free time, some of which may be unsupervised and include access to an ATV.

On December 1, 2005, a landmark ATV safety bill, SB 189 sponsored by Senator William R. Purcell, went into effect in North Carolina. We urge the North Carolina school system to relay this important information to your students, and their parents. Those interested in learning more about the ATV Safety Institute's *ATV RiderCourseSM* can call (800) 887-2887 for information about classes in their area.

With approximately 25 million Americans operating ATVs in the United States, it is important that riders and non-riders alike understand the value of safe and responsible ATV use. The ATV Safety Institute has created an activity sheet for students, grades K-6 or 7-12, about ATVs and the Golden Rules of ATV safety. An electronic version is available in the library section of our website, www.atvsafety.org.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data show that 92 percent of all ATV-related fatalities are the result of warned-against behaviors. These behaviors include: not wearing a helmet, riding on public roads, carrying a passenger on a single-rider ATV, youth riding unsupervised, riding with no formal ATV training, and riding the wrong size ATV. Almost 90 percent of youth ATV-related injury incidents occur when a youth is operating an adult-sized ATV.

The ATV Safety Institute's primary goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs, thereby reducing accidents and injuries that may result from improper ATV operation by the rider. The safety of all riders, including your students, is our top priority.

Parents literally hold the key to a child's safety. Every ATV has an ignition key, and when an adult controls the key, they control the use. An electronic version of the Institute's letter to parents on the importance of ATV safety is available in the library section of our website, www.atvsafety.org, or call (800) 852-5344 to obtain a free copy.

Feel free to contact the ATV Safety Institute should you have any questions or to request safety materials for your students.

Sincerely,

Tim Buche
President
ATV Safety Institute