

May 2008



Dear Parent or Guardian:

As the school year draws to a close, the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute would like to remind you to keep safety and mind during the summer riding season. ATV safety is important even if your family doesn't own an ATV because your child may have friends who do. The All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute would like to impress the importance of ATV safety; here is what all parents need to know when it comes to your child and ATVs:

- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
- Never ride on public roads – another vehicle could hit you.
- Ride an ATV that is right for your age.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.
- Take an *ATV RiderCourse*; call Toll-Free (800) 887-2887, or visit www.atvsafety.org.

As parents, you literally hold the key to your children's safety. Every ATV has an ignition key, and when an adult controls the key, they control the use. Parental supervision is vital to a child's safety; children under the age of 16 must be actively supervised at all times when riding an ATV. Allow continued use only if you determine that your child has the ability and judgment to operate the ATV safely.

ATVs are not "one-size-fits-all." Approximately 90 percent of youth ATV-related injuries occur when a child under the age of 16 is operating an adult-sized ATV.

Even though a child is of the recommended age to ride a particular size ATV, not all children have the strength, skill or judgment needed to operate an ATV. The Institute publishes a booklet, *Parents, Youngsters, and All-Terrain Vehicles*, designed to help parents determine if their child is ready to ride an ATV, available electronically in the library section of our website, www.atvsafety.org, or call (800) 852-5344 to obtain a free copy.

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, riding the wrong size ATV, youth riding unsupervised, and riding with no formal ATV training. Please prepare your child to make the safe choice when given the opportunity to ride an 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. For more information about ATV safety or to find out about training in your area, please visit our website www.atvsafety.org, or call toll-free (800) 887-2887. Also on our website you may view and download a short video on ATV safety and the importance of rider training. Click on the "Ride Safe, Ride Smart" icon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Buche". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Buche
President
ATV Safety Institute