



# ATV Safety



ATVs can be used for both agriculture and recreation.



# Gearing UP for ATV Safety

Gearing up to hit the trail is important for a safe and successful ride.





# Where should I ride?

- On privately owned property, with consent from the owner
- On designated trails in PA state forests

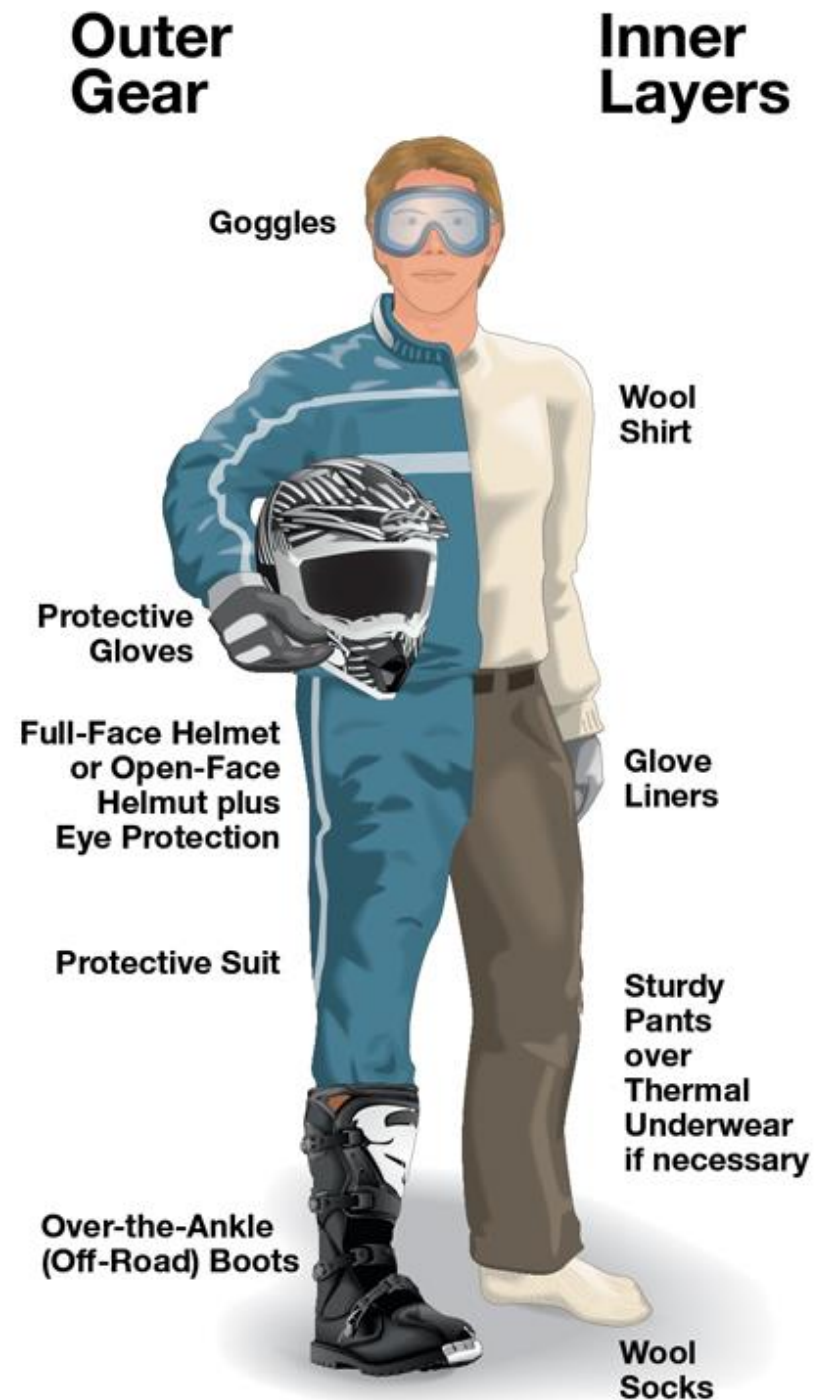
Never ride on paved roads except to cross when permitted by law.





# What should I wear?

- A properly fitted and approved helmet
- Long pants
- Long sleeves
- Gloves
- Goggles
- Boots that cover the ankle



# What should I wear? (continued)

A Helmet!

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that all ATV operators wear a certified motorcycle or motorsports helmet (DOT or Snell). It is the PA law.

Bicycle helmets do not adequately protect the face and head when operating an ATV.





# What age do I need to be?

- Children under the age of 8 are NOT permitted to operate an ATV on Pennsylvania public lands.
- Riders ages 8 and 9 are restricted to an engine size of 70cc or less.





# Who should get training?

- Youth (ages 8-15) are not permitted to operate an ATV without training. Visit [dcnr.pa.gov](http://dcnr.pa.gov) for a list of PA trainers.
- Riders 16+ are encouraged to receive the training.



# What should I take with me?

- Cell phone
- First aid kit
- Water
- ID

Always tell someone where you are headed and what time you plan on returning from your ATV ride.





# ATV General Hazards

- Speeding
- Operating the ATV on a paved road
- Not wearing a protective helmet
- Operating the ATV while overloaded or with an unbalanced load
- Carrying passengers on single-rider ATVs





# ATV Terrain Hazards

- Holes
- Ruts
- Trees, stumps, or large rocks
- Fencing and wires
- Creeks, culverts, and streams





# ATV Rollover Hazards

You can rollover in an ATV when...

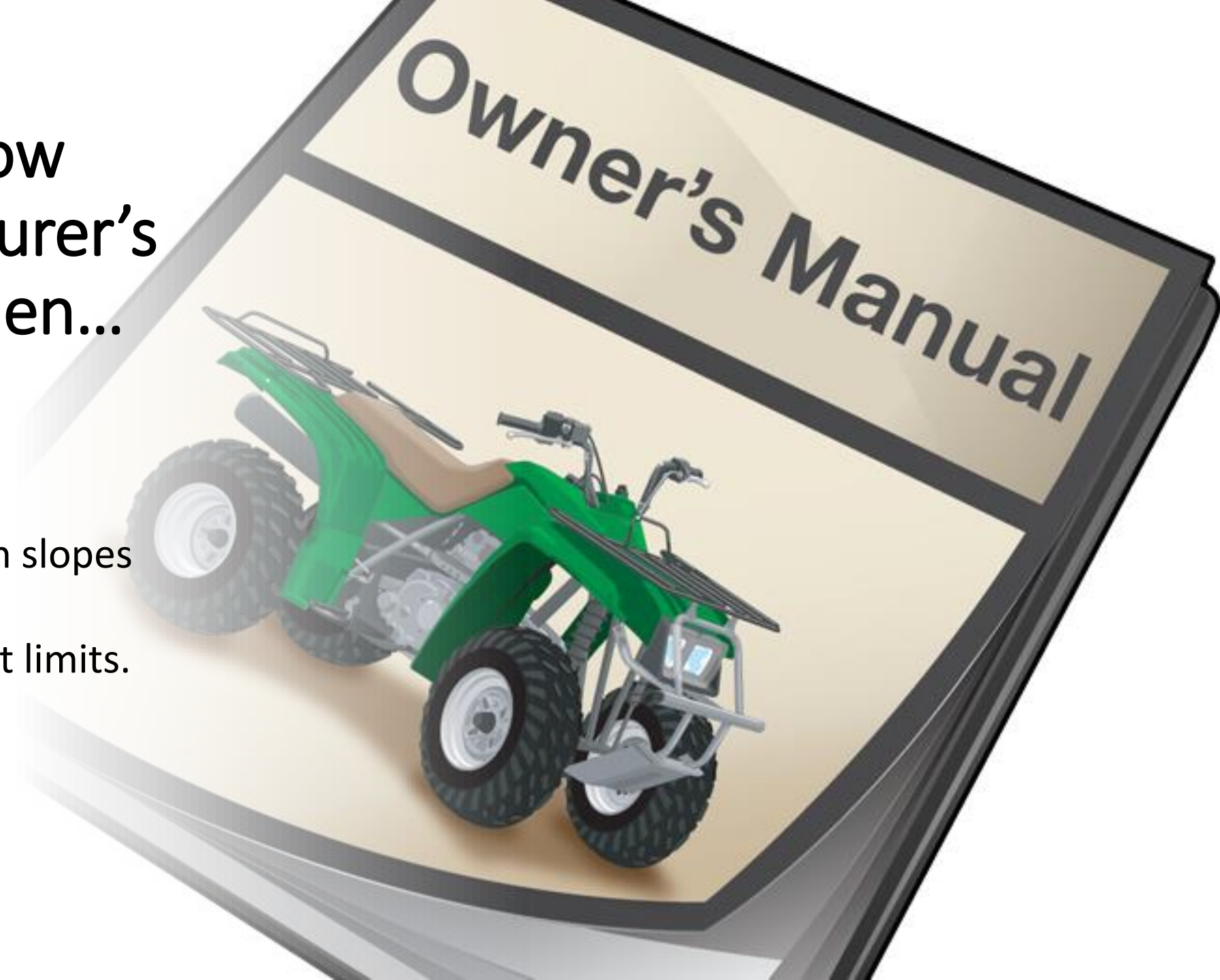
- Using excessive speed while turning or on rough terrain.
- Overloading the ATV or having an unstable load.
- Altering the ATV or cargo bed.





To prevent rollovers, follow the manufacturer's guidelines when...

- carrying a load.
- using accessories.
- operating the ATV on slopes and inclines.
- staying within weight limits.





# Rollover Protective Systems

Rollover Protective Systems (ROPS) provide protection from crushing in the event a piece of equipment overturns.



# ATV Modifications & Attachments

- Modifications to an ATV may alter its performance and increase the potential for an accident.
- Modifications to the ATV's frame, electrical system, or mechanical configurations should not be permitted without the manufacturer's approval.

***Never exceed weight limits specified by the manufacturer's guidelines.***





# Active Riding

**Active Riding** refers to the operator's ability to make quick body weight shifts combined with acceleration and braking.





# Active Riding

Active riding includes continuously scanning the trail ahead for any potential hazards or obstacles. Look as far ahead as possible to give yourself more time to react. Know what's coming up ahead long before you get there.

- Inclines/Declines
- Side Slopes
- Obstacles
- Sand, Mud, or Snow
- Shallow Water



# Paved Roads

When riding an ATV, you will occasionally have to cross a public roadway.

The rider must be 16 or older to ride across a paved road.





# ATV SAFETY



# What safety tips should I follow?

- Never ride an ATV on the road (except when safely *crossing*).
- Check the weather.
- Ride during daylight hours.
- Always ride at a safe speed on a designated ATV trail.
- Tell someone else your route and expected return time.
- Choose an ATV that is appropriate for your age, size, and skill.
- Take a certified safety course prior to using an ATV.
- Follow all ATV manufacturer guidelines and warnings.





# Farm and Agricultural Safety ATV Safety Checklist

## ATV Check

1. Tire condition and inflation
2. Throttle, clutch, and brake operation
3. Battery, electrical system, and lights
4. Fuel, oil, coolant, and brake fluids
5. Air filter, exhaust system
6. Chassis, steering and suspension
7. Transmission (including 2WD/4WD shifting if equipped)
8. All accessories or modifications are manufacturer-approved
9. Loads are within the ATV's limit and properly secured
10. Slow-moving vehicle emblem (if operating on roadways)

## Operator Checks

1. Helmet (DOT or Snell-approved), with eye protection
2. Long pants and long-sleeve shirt
3. Over-the-ankle boots
4. Gloves
5. Eye protection (if the helmet is not of the full-face type)
6. Are you familiar with the ATV you will be using? Maximum Slope/Incline
7. Are you familiar with the terrain and potential obstacles?
8. Do you have a check-in procedure and a means of calling for help?



# What does the law say?

- Always ride sober
- Never ride with a loaded firearm
- Always follow the marked speed limit and rules
- Always carry only the number of people the ATV is made for
- Wear a helmet
- Title and register the ATV with DCNR unless its use is exclusively as a farm or business vehicle





# Where can I find more information?

This slideshow is not a comprehensive list of safety protocols or codified laws. It is the responsibility of the operator or a parent or guardian to know the law and enforce safety measures. For more information, visit the **DCNR website, [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov)**.



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES





# Resources

- ATV Safety Institute:

<https://atvsafety.org/atv-resources/>

- DCNR:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/ATVRiding/pages/default.aspx>

- Environmental Health and Safety VA Tech:

<https://ehs.vt.edu/>

- Official ATV Safety Course Online:

<https://www.offroad-ed.com/pennsylvania/>





# Thank you!

The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit trauma prevention education organization.

## ATSPA Mission

Injury prevention and mitigation through education, intervention, and advocacy.

## ATSPA Vision

To be the leading provider of evidence-based trauma prevention, education, and resources.

