

**Today's discussion is from the
Motorized Operations Category.**



Scenarios are situations that can arise on a Wildland Fire or Aviation incident and are meant to add a realistic setting for the application of Today's Safety Discussion.

ATV Transport

ATV Loading/Unloading

Loading/unloading of ATVs has resulted in serious injury and even death to employees. Only those who have been fully trained in ATV operations should conduct loading/unloading procedures. The following safety measures are recommended:

- Wear all PPE (including gloves, helmet, etc.) until ATV is either secured or unloaded
- Ensure header board (board placed in front of bed of truck or trailer) is in place and in good condition
- ATV tire ramps should be secure to trailer or tail gate and on level terrain
- If possible, use a tilt trailer to haul an ATV. If this is not feasible, try to lower back end of vehicle so slant of loading ramp is reduced. Back into ditch, hillside, or anything else to try and lower back end of vehicle
- When loading ATV onto vehicle or trailer, keep seated, and lean body weight forward on ATV.
- When unloading ATV, keep seated and keep weight forward. This helps keep ATV from flipping over backwards.
- Never load or unload an ATV with a load on the racks. Load all ATVs empty.

- **Securing ATV for transport**

ATVs improperly loaded can be dangerous to you and other highway users. Steering can be affected if your load is not properly distributed and if not properly secured, can become dislodged and damage equipment and cause injury or death during a quick stop or crash.

- Drivers are responsible for their load—regardless who actually loads equipment. All drivers are responsible for:
 - Inspecting the ATV
 - Recognizing overloads and poorly balanced weight
 - Knowing the gear loaded on the ATV is securely tied down.

- **Securing ATV's:**
 - Secure ATV in its normal operating position (on all four wheels)
 - Set the parking brake and place transmission in gear
 - Turn fuel valve OFF
 - Use chock (that fits snugly against wheels) in front and back of ATV. Front end header boards should also block forward movement of ATV.
 - Tie down ATV on at least each corner--use tie downs made from one inch nylon strap or greater, with hooks at each end and that have ratcheting buckles (ordinary rope should not be used due to stretching) or tie down straps that will lock in place.
 - ATVs should never be hauled with a load attached to the cargo racks. Hazard exists of losing the load from the ATV while in transit.

References:

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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