



Today's discussion is from the Motorized Operations Category.

ATV - How to Properly Ride and Operate

Riding an ATV correctly allows the operator to operate and control the machine more easily, and react more quickly to changes in terrain and environment. Proper riding posture includes:

- ✓ head and eyes up, looking forward;
 - ✓ shoulders relaxed, with elbows bent slightly;
 - ✓ hands on the handlebars; knees in toward the gas tank;
 - ✓ feet on the footrests, toes pointing straight ahead;
 - ✓ back should be straight but not tense
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- To turn an ATV, keep most of your body weight on the outside foot peg and lean your upper body into the turn. Never lower your foot to the ground for stability—could cause ejection if foot is caught by tire.
 - When climbing hills, shift your body weight forward to keep the front wheel(s) on the ground.
 - If stopped while going uphill, do not apply the rear brake only. Apply equal pressure to both front and rear brakes, but never only to the rear brake. Get off the machine and turn it around to proceed down the hill.
 - When going down hill, keep the engine running and in low gear, apply both front and rear brakes with even pressure and avoid sharp turns. Slide body forward on seat towards gas tank, keeping body weight back by leaning backwards. This will help keep weight on back wheels and lessen potential to flip ATV over forward. Avoid "side hill" situations. When they are unavoidable, lean into the hill.
 - When carrying a load up hill, if possible, place load on the front of the ATV to help keep the front end of the ATV from flipping over. If going down hill, place load on back of ATV to help keep the ATV from flipping over forward. If loads cannot be adjusted, (drip torch mounted on back), try to equalize the load on front and back if possible.
 - Only operate an ATV under the conditions for which you have been trained, qualified for and are experienced in riding.
 - As a last resort to avoid an impending collision, roll off the vehicle and kick yourself free of it.

References:

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

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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