



May 2008

Dear North Carolina Parent or Guardian:

As the school years 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 in North Carolina:

Riders must be at least 8 years old to operate an ATV in North Carolina

Ride an ATV that's right for your age (20-171.10):

- 8 to 11 years of age under 70cc engine displacement
- 12 to 15 years of age 70cc – 90cc engine displacement
- 16 years of age and older over 90cc engine displacement

Ride supervised (20-171.10):

- If you are under age 16 you must be supervised by a person who is at least 18 years old

Ride protected (20-171.14):

- Always wear a Department of Transportation approved helmet
- Always wear eye protection

Ride in Control (20-171.14):

- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider ATV

Ride aware (20-171.14):

- Be on your game - No alcohol or other drugs that impair vision and coordination
- Stay on trails and off public streets and roads

Ride an ATV that has (20-171.13):

- A brake system in good working order
- An effective muffler
- A USDA Forest Service approved spark arrestor

On December 1, 2005, a landmark ATV safety bill, SB 189 sponsored by Senator William R. Purcell (outlined above), went into effect in North Carolina. One component of this law requires that North Carolina ATV operators born on or after January 1, 1990 possess a safety certificate that indicates they have successfully completed an ATV safety course sponsored or approved by the ATV Safety Institute. If you or your children are interested in taking the ATV *RiderCourse*SM call (800) 887-2887 or visit www.atvsafety.org to find a class scheduled in your area.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Buche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Buche
President
ATV Safety Institute