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WHAT IS AN ATV?

Irvine, Calif. – All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are essentially today’s workhorse and are used for both work-related and recreational pursuits.

Work-related usage includes commercial applications, such as farming, ranching, construction, oil production, land management, field maintenance, and facilities management at sporting events. Other examples include law enforcement, lifeguard beach patrol, and rescue efforts during floods, hurricanes, fires and earthquakes. ATVs also pulled their weight helping with search/rescue efforts following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, and were also on the scene in Texas after the Columbia Shuttle disaster. ATVs served the military during the Gulf War, in Afghanistan, and during the war on Iraq.

Recreational uses include a variety of options, such as transporting gear to a fishing spot, campsite or hunting grounds, hauling firewood from the backwoods to the homestead, or simply exploring the great outdoors.

ATVs are four-wheeled motorized vehicles designed for a single rider for use only on off-road terrain. The vehicles are powered by gasoline engines and equipped with four low-pressure tires, a seat which a single rider straddles and handlebars for steering.

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Leading distributors are engaged in highly visible communications efforts targeted to users and prospective buyers about the safe and responsible use of ATVs.

As a part of these efforts, free training is offered by these distributors to all individuals who purchase new ATVs, including the purchaser's eligible family members. Training also is available for a modest fee to all other interested parties who are not eligible for free training.

Training is conducted thorough the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute[®] (ASI), a not-for-profit division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America[®] (SVIA), formed in 1988 to implement an expanded national program of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety education and awareness. ASI'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 by the rider.

The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) is an information source about the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) industry. SVIA provides information on ATV standards as well as promoting model state legislation on ATV riding. It also serves as a liaison with state and federal agencies on ATV training and their influence upon the environment. Membership is open to all corporations regularly engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing or wholesale distribution of ATVs in the United States. SVIA was formed in 1983 as a national not-for-profit trade association and is based in Irvine, California. Its members include AlphaSports, Arctic Cat, Bombardier, Honda, John Deere, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha.

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