

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) SAFETY

CSN Discuss Bulletin: February/March 2004

This bulletin comes to you from the Children's Safety Network through CSN Discuss, an electronic forum for the discussion of child and adolescent injury and violence prevention and related issues.

CONTENTS

A Question from CSN

News and Developments

- 1) Center of America Regional Emergency Medical Services for Children ATV Study Group
- 2) Using Evidence-Based Research on All-Terrain Vehicles to Influence Policy Formulation
- 3) "ATV: Another Tragic Victim" video

Articles and Reports

- 4) All-terrain vehicle rules and regulations: Impact on pediatric mortality.
- 5) Deaths among drivers of off-road vehicles after collisions with trail gates--New Hampshire, 1997-2002.
- 6) Estimated annual cost of all terrain vehicle-related deaths in West Virginia: 1990-1999
- 7) Farmwork with an ATV

ATV Safety Resources from CSN

- 8) In Your Backyard
- 9) ATV Safety: Just The Facts
- 10) Seeds of Safety
- 11) Professional Resource Packet

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Availability

Copies of many items can be delivered to state Maternal and Child Health and state public health staff upon request. Articles available by e-mail are so indicated. Some other articles can be faxed or mailed. To request an article or other publication, e-mail jhudson@edc.org with the item name, delivery preference (e-mail, fax number, or mailing address). This service is restricted to state Maternal and Child Health and state public health staff. Restricted time and resources forbids us from delivering articles to others. URLs of publications that can be downloaded from the web are included in the bibliographic information.

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****A QUESTION FROM CSN****

CSN is looking for examples of collaborative efforts between state health department and private sector organizations that address ATV and off-road vehicle recreational safety. Responses will be summarized and posted to CSN Discuss. Please respond to Chris Hanna at hanna.chris@mcrf.mfldclin.edu

News and Developments

- 1) Center of America Regional Emergency Medical Services for Children (CARE) Regional ATV Study Project
Representatives of states participating in the CARE Study Project meet regularly to explore ATV-related childhood injuries and how to respond with developmentally-appropriate interventions. Participating states include Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky and Wisconsin For more information, contact Mary Jean Erschen at erschmj@dhfs.state.wi.us

2) Using Evidence-Based Research on All-Terrain Vehicles to Influence Policy Formulation

This November 2003 seminar sponsored by the Center for Rural Emergency Medicine at West Virginia University is available through the Center for Injury Research and Control at the University of Pittsburgh. The archived seminar can be found online at http://www.circl.pitt.edu/home/past_seminars.htm

3) ATV: Another Tragic Victim

This video includes testimonials from people affected by ATV crashes as well as information on how to safely operate ATVs. It was produced by the Center for Rural Emergency Medicine (CREM) at West Virginia University. Additional information about the video can be found at <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/crem/FeatRes.htm>
Complimentary copies can be ordered from Andrew Fulton at CREM: afulton@hsc.wvu.edu or 304-293-7527.

Articles and Reports

4) Upperman JS, Shultz B, Gaines BA, Hackam D, Cassidy LD, Ford HR, Helmkamp J. All-terrain vehicle rules and regulations: Impact on pediatric mortality. Journal of Pediatric Surgery. September 2003; 38(9): 1284-6.

Availability: e-mail or hard copy

This study analyzed pediatric mortality data reported to the CPSC from 1982 to 1998 and state all-terrain vehicle requirements compiled by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America in August 2001. Data from the 26 states with the highest ATV mortality rates (TOP) were compared with those of all other states (OTH). There were 1,342 ATV pediatric deaths during the 16 year study period. Ninety-two percent of TOP states have no licensing laws, compared with 73 percent of OTH states. There is no difference between these groups with regard to minimum age requirements and safety certification. The study concluded that current legal and regulatory standards have a low probability of decreasing ATV-related pediatric mortality and that states should adopt laws that restrict the use of ATV's for children less than 16 years of age.

5) Deaths among drivers of off-road vehicles after collisions with trail gates--New Hampshire, 1997-2002. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. January 24, 2003; (3): 45-6.

Availability: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5203a2.htm>

During April-July 2002, three deaths occurred on New Hampshire trails when adolescents driving off-highway recreational vehicles (OHRVs) collided with trail gates. Because of these incidents, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services conducted a study to determine the extent of the problem and characteristics of the fatal events. This report describes trail gate fatalities in New Hampshire during 1997-2002 and suggests that prevention efforts should focus on increased enforcement of OHRV operating rules, driver education, enhanced gate visibility, and improved signage.

6) Helmkamp JC. Estimated annual cost of all terrain vehicle-related deaths in West Virginia: 1990-1999. West Virginia Medical Journal. January-February 2002; 98(1): 24-5.

Availability: e-mail or hard copy

In response to a request from West Virginia lawmakers preparing ATV safety legislation, estimates of the economic cost of fatal injuries associated with ATV use were calculated. These calculations revealed that the average annual economic loss resulting from ATV-related deaths in West Virginia from 1990 through 1999 to be between \$10 million and \$34.2 million. Persons killed in ATV crashes in these years lost, on average, 43 years of productive life.

7) Farmwork with an ATV

Availability: <http://www.nagcat.org/poster/GenActy/ATV.htm>

This section of the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks contains guidelines to assist parents in identifying the developmentally-appropriate role for children using ATVs in farmwork.

ATV SAFETY RESOURCES FROM CSN

The following resources are available from the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS), a site of Children's Safety Network. The resources are available at the NCCRAHS website at <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/resources>

8) In Your Backyard:

A directory of state health and safety resources that identifies Off Road Vehicle Clubs/Recreation Trails Program Administrators and state injury contacts.

9) ATV Just the Facts:

A brief summary of injury facts and safety information.

10) Seeds of Safety:

Colorful one-page ATV safety fact sheets designed for a wide audience.

11) Professional Resource Packet:

A packet including information on ATV-related injuries, organizations, resources, prevention strategies, occupational ATV safety, safety education programs, and state laws.

Next month's CSN Discuss Bulletin will focus on injury data.

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Please direct questions about this bulletin to Chris Hanna at 800-662-6900
x 3 or hanna.chris@mcrf.mfldclin.edu

Children's Safety Network
Education Development Center
55 Chapel Street
Newton, MA 02458
<http://www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/>