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By: Brett Wardle

ATV/UTV Safety

Editor: Emily Hanson

Intermountain Power Service Corporation

Supervising Safety Newsletter

The weather is warm and the COVID-19 restrictions are slowly starting to loosen. It is time to get out, improve our social distancing, and enjoy the great outdoors. For many, this means jumping in a vehicle or on our ATV or UTV and going for a ride. Before we do, we must always make sure that we adhere to and follow all safety rules and guidelines such as wear seatbelts, helmets, etc. Below are a few off-road safety tips that will help you have a ride that you will never forget and not a ride that you wish you could forget.

Off-Road Vehicle Safety Tips

When you ride the trail, put safety first!

Think Ahead

Know the laws and regulations in your area. Do your best to preserve the areas where you ride and be sure to only ride where off-road vehicles are permitted. Read the owner's manual and make sure to take the manual, a small tool kit, and essential spare parts with you whenever you ride.

Gear Up

For optimum protection in case of an accident, always wear a DOT-approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, a sturdy jacket, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves. In a UTV make sure that all riders are buckled in before you go.

Practice

Find a safe place to practice braking, turning, and quickening your reaction time to help improve your skills and make you a safer rider.

Learn More

Improve your riding skills by taking a training course. Make sure the vehicle is properly licensed or registered. Choose a vehicle that is appropriate for your age and ability.

Stay off paved roads

Remember that off-road vehicles are meant for operation off pavement and public roads. These surfaces may not only be illegal, but dangerous. An off-road vehicle may be difficult to control on pavement, which could result in an accident.

Maintain Control and Stay Sharp

Keep your speed right for the conditions and your experience. Be aware of current terrain, visibility, weather conditions, potential hazards, and obstacles. Ride only when your senses are sharp. Never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Check it Out

Be sure to check that the off-road vehicle is running properly before hitting the trail. Always check controls, lights, fuel and oil levels, switches, chain, driveshaft, tires, and chassis before you head out.

Follow the recommended service schedule for your off-road vehicle and be sure an authorized service provider makes all repairs.

Go it Alone

Never carry a passenger in a off-road vehicle unless the vehicle is designed with an appropriate passenger seat. Additional weight can greatly affect the handling of the off-road vehicle and potentially cause loss of control. It's a good idea to take a buddy along with his/her own vehicle if yours is not designed for multiple passengers.

Let them Know

Even the best planned trips don't always go as planned, so remember to always let someone know where you are going, how to contact you, and when you plan to return.

By following these off road safety tips, all ATV/UTV rides that you take during the summer will be enjoyable and bring memories that you will always remember, not those you want

to forget.

Get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

