TALKING **safety**

Practical safety meeting topics for your workplace

Safe ATV use

Why it's important

Safely operating an ATV requires training, experience, good judgement, attention to hazards and physical strength.

Unlike the larger six-wheel ATVs, regular ATVs have no rollover protective structures (ROPS). Flipping and rolling are the major cause of injury and death, and head injuries are the usual result.

How to control the hazards

- Choose the right ATV for the job.
- ATVs must be operated in accordance with the operator's manual.
- The operator's manual should be readily available to the operator at all times.
- Training by a competent trainer is required for all ATV operators. The training should cover the safe operation of ATVs and safe procedures for loading and unloading.
- Personal protective equipment is mandatory. This includes approved head protection, approved eye protection and face protection, long-sleeve shirts, high-visibility clothing, hand protection, full-length leg protection and adequate footwear.
- No passengers are allowed on ATVs.
- Safe operating standards should be established for ATVs, and all operators should be trained, coached and monitored on those standards.
- If workers are operating ATVs alone, a working alone policy must be communicated to all workers and monitored for compliance.
- A circle check of the ATV needs to be completed before it is operated. Operators should identify and report any damage or defects.
- There should be a lockout and guarding policy for ATVs and it should be communicated to all operators.
- Make sure operators are instructed in the use of topographical maps, compass and GPS.
- Make sure all ATVs are equipped with standard emergency equipment such as first aid kits, vehicle repair kits, water and snacks, flashlight, waterproof matches and emergency space blanket.
- Refresher training for experienced drivers should be completed on a regular basis.

Show and tell

- Using your own company policy regarding ATV use, explain what is in the policy and why.
- Using an ATV, show participants what a complete circle check on an ATV looks like. You might want to perform a post-trip circle check as well.

Notes:

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