Unintentional Injuries Related to Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV’s) among Arizona Residents, 2013

In 2013 there were 12 OHV-related fatalities, 330 inpatient hospitalizations and 1,553 emergency department visits due to unintentional OHV-related injuries among Arizona residents. Males comprised 83 percent of the fatalities, 72 percent of non-fatal emergency department visits, and 78 percent of non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations.

- The highest age-specific rates for non-fatal OHV-related emergency department visits were among males and females 15 to 24 years of age.
- Total hospitalization charges were more than $35.9 million.
- 23 percent of the emergency department visits and 14 percent of inpatient hospitalizations were paid for by Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).
- The median hospital stay was 3 days; the longest hospital stay was 27 days.
- Arizona residents were hospitalized for a total of 1,374 days.

What can be done to reduce the risk of sustaining OHV injuries?

OHV injuries are preventable. The most effective way to prevent injuries is a comprehensive approach that includes all of the following:

- Wear a helmet, protective clothing, and protective eyewear***.
- Children should not ride adult-sized ATVs*.
  - Under 12 years old: ride ATVs with 70 cc engines or less
  - 12-16 years old: ride ATVs with 90cc engines or less
- Don’t ride double**. Most ATVs are designed for only one rider.
- Take an OHV Riders Safety Course in person or online.
- Avoid pavement. OHVs are less stable on paved roads.
- Be familiar with your riding environment or ride with a group.

For more information, visit the Arizona Game & Fish Off-Highway Vehicle website [http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoor_recreation/off_highway.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoor_recreation/off_highway.shtml)

* The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children who are not licensed to drive motor vehicles should not be allowed to operate off-road vehicles.
**ARS §28-892 prohibits passengers on vehicles designed for use by one rider.
***ARS § 28-1179B requires a helmet for children under 18 years riding on an OHV.