



# MCIWEST-MCB CAMP PENDLETON

Critical Days of Summer Newsletter

July 2014



## All-Terrain Vehicle Safety



Like many other activities involving high speeds and heavy machinery, riding an ATV can be risky. To stay safe, follow ATV safety tips. Take knowledge to the extreme and learn more about these important tips for safer riding:

- Get trained
- Wear a helmet
- Keep children on appropriate sized quads
- Don't ride with a passenger unless your quad is designed for passengers
- Don't ride on pavement
- Don't ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol

## ATV Safety Training Course

MCB Camp Pendleton offers a formal training that teaches drivers how to control ATVs in typical situations. Operators with formal hands-on ATV training have a lower injury risk than drivers with no formal training.



## ATV Protective Gear

A large portion of ATV injuries are head injuries. Wearing a helmet drastically reduces the chances and severity of these injuries. When choosing a helmet ensure you choose a helmet that is designed for motorcycles and that the helmet has a certification from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and if possible the Snell Memorial Foundation. Protecting the rest of our bodies is also important. It is suggested that riders wear gear that is designed for the type of riding that they intend to do. Marine Corps Orders, require that riders wear over the ankle boots, long pants, long sleeved shirt, goggles, and full fingered gloves. However, there are many additional pieces

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that can be added such as: off road pants, jacket or shirt, knee and elbow pads, chest protectors, and neck protectors. Protective gear helps to protect against cuts, abrasions, and injuries resulting from rocks, trees, debris.

## Passengers

ATVs are designed to be rider active. This means that the operator of the vehicle needs to move around on the bike to maintain control of the vehicle especially in varying types of terrain. Passengers can severely limit the operator's mobility. California State laws forbid having passengers on quads that are not designed for passengers.

## Roads

ATVs are designed to be operated off road, and much of this design causes ATVs to be difficult to operate on the streets. Historically many ATV mishaps happen on paved roads. This is why very few states allow ATVs to be operated on paved roads.

### **Laws for quads by state link:**

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/all-terrain-vehicle-safety-laws-by-state.aspx>

## Children and ATVs



Approximately one-third of all ATV related hospital visits and fatalities are those involving children. Out of these mishaps, most occur with children that are on inappropriate sized ATVs. Children under 16 that are riding on adult ATVs are twice as likely to be injured as those riding youth ATVs. The appropriate size of quad is based on the child's age and is listed on the quads.

- 6 years of age nothing bigger than a 50CC engine
- 90CC engines are not recommended for children under 12
- 250CC engines and larger are not recommended for children under the age of 16.

**For more family tips click on the link:** <http://atvsafetynet.org/>

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## Drugs and Alcohol and ATVs

Since good judgment and quick reaction times are needed to safely operate an ATV, drugs and alcohol should never be mixed into riding. Drugs or alcohol severely diminish our judgment and reaction times, thereby increasing the likelihood of a mishap occurring.

California Laws/Stats: <http://www.atvsafety.gov/state/state.html>

## Workplace Humor

How do crazy ATV'ers go through the forest?

- They take the psychopath.

## Picture of the Week



For Marine Corps specific please review:

MCO 5100.30B Off Duty Recreation Order  
MCO 5100.19F Marine Corps Traffic safety Program  
BO 5100.2L MCB Camp Pendleton Base Regulation

For more information contact the Installation Traffic Safety Manager at (760)763-5070.

 Check us out on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Cpenbasesafety>

**Click on these links for more tips.**

<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/>

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