

QUAD BIKE SAFETY

A quad bike can be useful equipment on a farm, but it can have serious safety risks when used incorrectly.

Every year quad bikes are among the leading cause of death and serious injury on Tasmanian farms.

What are the risks?

Many deaths are due to rollovers where riders die from asphyxiation, crush and head injuries.

Quad bikes can roll over in any direction – to the front, side or back — and can happen even at low speeds. The risk of a rollover increases if you're travelling across uneven ground or slopes, at high speed, towing an attachment or carrying a heavy or unstable load.



BEFORE YOU RIDE

- Ensure you have received the necessary information, training and instruction about the safe use of quad bikes.
- Decide if a quad bike is the right vehicle for the activity. Would a ute, tractor, motorbike or side-by-side be safer for the task and terrain?
- Maintain the quad bike so it's in a safe condition.
- Read the operator manual. Follow the manufacturer's safety warnings and recommended use of the vehicle.
- Tell someone where you plan to go and when you expect to return.

Ride safely — don't take unnecessary risks

- Don't carry passengers on quad bikes.
- Avoid riding on uneven terrain or steep slopes. Watch out for ground affected by rain or flooding.
- Ride on tracks and paths that you know, and beware of obstacles.
- Carry a mobile phone or radio device to use in case of an emergency.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol/drugs.
- Only carry accessories and attachments you need. These affect the weight and stability of your quad bike, so leave them behind if you don't need them.
- Take care when carrying liquid loads as they can slosh about when turning corners or crossing slopes, and make the quad bike unstable.

Get training

- Training is essential to help reduce the risk of serious injury and death.
- No one should use a quad bike within a workplace without first receiving training and then having ongoing supervision to ensure they are following relevant safe work procedures.



QUAD BIKES AND CHILDREN

- Children are at greater risk of serious injury and death while operating quads. Youth size quad bikes pose a significant risk of death.
- Never let children ride quad bikes that are designed for adults, not even as passengers.
- Do not let children under 6 years of age ride any quad bike and children under 16 years of age should not ride adult size quad bikes.
- Supervise children at all times near any quad bike activity.
- Remove the keys from the quad bike when not in use.

Risks of a serious incident are also increased when operators:

- Are inexperienced.
- Carry passengers.
- Do not have the physical strength to control or actively ride a quad bike.
- Are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Are not wearing suitable personal protective equipment such as a helmet.

Use the right safety gear

- Always wear a properly fitting helmet — it's the best protection against a head injury.
- Wear protective clothing and gear such as goggles, long sleeves, long pants, boots and gloves/hand protection.
- Fit a crush protection device to protect you in the event of a rollover.



Find more information at www.worksafe.tas.gov.au by searching for 'quad bikes'.