

Safety and health alert

10/99 Farmer injured in all-terrain vehicle (atv) accident

Incident

A farmer received life threatening head injuries when he was thrown from a 4 wheel ATV (all terrain vehicle) in a paddock. The vehicle was travelling in long grass stubble when it hit a stump.

Factors

- The driver was not wearing a helmet or any other protective equipment.
- The low tyre pressure in this type of vehicle can cause them to bounce when they hit an obstacle.
- The stump was hidden from view by the stubble in the paddock.

Recommendations

- Manufacturers of all-terrain vehicles strongly recommend that the rider of these vehicles should wear protective safety equipment, particularly a helmet and sturdy work boots. WorkSafe Western Australia endorses this recommendation.
- Drivers of all-terrain vehicles should identify and familiarise themselves with hazards associated with riding such vehicles, including speed, obstacles, undulations and ruts and regulate their driving habits and the speed of the vehicle to the terrain and conditions they are experiencing. Endeavour to stick to known, defined paths.
- Drivers of all-terrain vehicles should have adequate training in the safe operation of these vehicles and be of sufficient age to understand the limitations of the vehicle and the hazards they may be exposed to, and consequences of those limitations and hazards. Training must include the characteristics of, and skills required for cornering in these vehicles.
- Don't carry passengers on all-terrain vehicles.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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