Survive the ride

Quad bike safety tips for young workers

Quad bikes can be deadly for children, teenagers and adults when used incorrectly. Rider behaviour and not wearing helmets have contributed to serious incidents.

Think before you act

- Stick to tracks and paths that you know. Recognise creeks and gullies and steep areas that are dangerous to ride in, and keep out of these no-go zones.
- Look out for rough or uneven ground, especially after rain or flooding.

Protect yourself

- Wear a properly fitting compliant helmet—it’s the best protection you have against a head injury.
- Wear eye protection, gloves, sturdy footwear and clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Employers should ensure that personal protective equipment such as helmets are used and worn by workers, and workers who are provided with personal protective equipment must wear a helmet and use other safety gear as required.

Only carry what you need to

- Remove attachments and loads that you don’t need. Towing and attachments add to the overall weight and instability of the bike.
- Take extra care when carrying liquid loads as the weight will shift when turning corners or crossing slopes making the bike unstable.

Adopt a ‘safety-first’ attitude

- Reduce your speed, especially if you are on rough or uneven ground that might cause you to lose control.
- If you’re not confident that you can do the job, speak up and ask for help.
- Do not be tempted to carry passengers if the bike is not designed for it—how would you feel if your mate fell off your bike and was seriously injured?
- Make sure someone knows where you’re going and when you’ll be back.
- Riding after using drugs or drinking alcohol is not a good move.

Get ahead of the pack

- Ask your parents or employer about quad bike training to improve your riding skills in all situations.

Discuss quad bike safety with your parents, your employer and other riders to survive the ride.

Work safe. Home safe.

For more information visit worksafe.qld.gov.au or 1300 362 128
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Parents and employers

Each year thousands of Queenslanders begin working for the first time, and young people are much more at risk of injury than experienced workers.

- **Age appropriate**
  Make sure young people under 16 don’t use an adult quad bike.

- **Training**
  Make sure your workers and family are properly trained and can confidently ride safely and responsibly.

- **No-go zones**
  Define areas on the property that are no-go zones for quad bikes.

- **Job appropriate**
  Decide whether a quad bike is the right tool for the job.

- **PPE**
  Ensure riders use appropriate personal protective equipment, including compliant helmets.

- **Access**
  Restrict access to quad bikes for competent riders only.

- **Crush protection**
  If it’s suitable, consider adding a crush protection device.

- **Safe to operate**
  Maintain bikes for safe operation by following the manufacturer’s recommendations (check tyre pressure and brakes).

You have a responsibility to keep young riders safe.

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