

Key Messages on ATV issues

- The Canadian Off-Highway Distributors Councils (COHVs) top priority is rider safety and education and in particular that youth health and safety be protected as much as possible. We know that under the right conditions, with proper legislation and proper safe guards built into this legislation that it is safe and it is responsible to allow youth to ride age appropriate youth-sized ATV's and off-road motorcycles.
- The medical community, safety experts, parents, rider federations, governments and the COHV member companies all want the same thing, to maximize safety and drastically reduce injuries and fatalities.

The Consumer Product Safety Council found in 2003 the following:

- 92% of the child fatalities reviewed occurred on ATVs with adult-sized engines. CPSC and the major ATV distributors agree that these ATVs should not be sold for the use of children.
- 72% of child fatalities reviewed involved children who were not wearing helmets. CPSC recommends and the major distributors agree that ATV riders wear helmets.

COHV Key Messages in all ATV Safety brochures:

- Never allow youth under the age of 16 to ride adult sized ATV's
- To be responsible is to ride safely
- Always supervise young people when they ride an ATV or off-road motorcycle
- To be in charge is to be an environmentally responsible rider
- Show consideration for trailside residents

COHV Youth ATV Safety:

- It's important to get the word out that kids don't belong on adult-sized ATVs, and that all riders need to follow the industry's recommended guidelines for safe and responsible riding --The bottom line is, even one crash or injury is one too many.
- Every ATV has an ignition key, and when an adult controls the key, they control the use. Parental supervision is vital to a child's safety;
- Children under the age of 16 must be actively supervised at all times when riding an ATV. Allow continued use only if you determine that your child has the ability and judgment to operate the ATV safely.
- ATVs are not "one-size-fits-all." Approximately 90 percent of youth ATV-related injuries occur when a child under the age of 16 is operating an adult-sized ATV.

- Even though a child is of the recommended age to ride a particular size ATV, not all children have the strength, skill or judgment needed to operate an ATV.
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data show that 92 percent of all ATV-related fatalities are the result of warned-against behaviors. These behaviors include: not wearing a helmet, riding on public roads, carrying a passenger on a single-rider ATV, riding the wrong size ATV, youth riding unsupervised, and riding with no formal ATV training.
- CPSC 2006 Annual Report of ATV-Related Deaths and Injuries – Released February 2008 by Robin A. Streeter, Ph.D., M.P.H.:
 - **Page 11** –Children under 16 years of age accounted for about 27 percent of the estimated number of injuries in 2006. Historically, children under 16 have accounted for about 35 percent of the total estimated number of injuries for the years 1985 through 2006”.
- **Page 7** - Reported Deaths of Children under 16 years of Age – see attached chart and information.