

Preventing Farm Worker ATV Crash Deaths

Two orchard workers were killed in separate crashes involving all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Six more workers have died in ATV crashes in Washington since 2013. Another 106 were seriously injured over the same period. Across the nation, over 300 workers died and over 2000 were injured operating ATVs from 2003 to 2013. Around **60 percent of deaths** were in agriculture, according to OSHA. ATV safety policies and proper training can prevent injuries and fatalities.

ORCHARD WORKER STRUCK ON HIGHWAY

Industry: Fruit Farming

A 40-year-old worker was delivering pipe to fix an irrigation line at an orchard when he was struck by a truck while riding an ATV on a state highway. He loaded both sides of the ATV with six to 12 pieces of 12-foot long, half-inch wide PVC pipe. He and another worker drove on a gravel road to an intersection with the paved highway. The worker with the pipe turned onto the shoulder but lost control and rolled into an oncoming truck traveling at 60 mph. He was thrown onto the road and died at the scene.

What led to this incident?

- The worker lacked ATV operator training and did not have a DOT-approved helmet.
- He was riding on a paved public road against state traffic rules and ATV manufacturer's guidelines.
- The pipe sticking out of the front and back of the ATV made it unstable and blocked the handlebars.



ATV with crash damage.

ORCHARD MANAGER CRASHES INTO APPLE BIN

Industry: Fruit Farming

A 43-year-old manager was riding an ATV while supervising a nighttime spraying operation when he crashed into an apple bin at high speed. He spoke with a worker around 10:30 p.m. but no one saw him again until his body was discovered the next morning. Investigators found he was riding his ATV on a gravel and dirt road at high speed when it skidded 58 feet into an apple bin. The ATV then rolled and stopped 20 feet from the bin. The manager was found on the road 12 feet from the ATV and 32 feet from the bin.

What led to this incident?

- The manager did not follow the ATV manufacturer's guidelines, including not having a helmet.
- He was riding too fast for nighttime and road surface conditions.
- Excessive speed made the ATV lose traction and skid out of control.



ATV at crash scene.

TIPS TO LIVE BY

- **Follow the ATV manufacturer's safety guidelines.**
 - Guidelines are in the owner's manual and warning decals on the vehicle.
 - Translate guidelines in languages workers best understand.
 - Replace the owner's manual when needed by calling a local ATV dealer.
- **Create and enforce ATV operator safety policies. Policies should:**
 - Be clearly written in an accident prevention program (APP) and routinely reevaluated.
 - Require ATV operators to follow manufacturer's guidelines, helmet and protective gear requirements, traffic laws, and training.
 - Require a job hazard analysis (JHA) for vehicles, tools, tasks, and environments. Involve workers to improve safety culture.
- **Make sure ATV operators are trained and certified every three years. Training should:**
 - Be provided and documented for each model of ATV used.
 - Evaluate skills and abilities in vehicle controls, handling, loading, unloading, service, protective gear, and operation over local terrain.
 - Be hands-on and take place in a safe, open, flat area. If possible, workers should receive training from the [ATV Safety Institute](http://www.atvsafetyinstitute.com).



Warning label on damaged ATV.

SHARP Publication No. 47-32-2024