

UTV/ATV Safety

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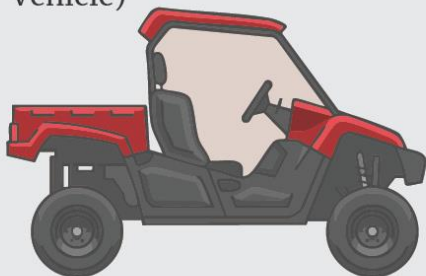
Georgia Governor's
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Staying Legal, Staying Safe:
UTVs ON GEORGIA ROADS

UTV vs. ATV: Key Differences

UTV/MPOHV

(Utility Task Vehicle)
(Multipurpose Off-Highway
Vehicle)



ATV

(All-Terrain Vehicle)



Steering wheel

Handlebars

2-6 riders sit inside

1-2 riders straddle seat
bench or bucket seat

4 or 6 wheels

3, 4, or 6 wheels

UTV vs ATV: Key Differences

Why Youth?

- The median age of those injured in an ATV accident is 14.
- Children account for 14-18% of ATV riders, but account for 37-57% of ATV related injuries.
- 150% increase in ATV related hospitalization by riders under the age of 18 from 1997-2006.



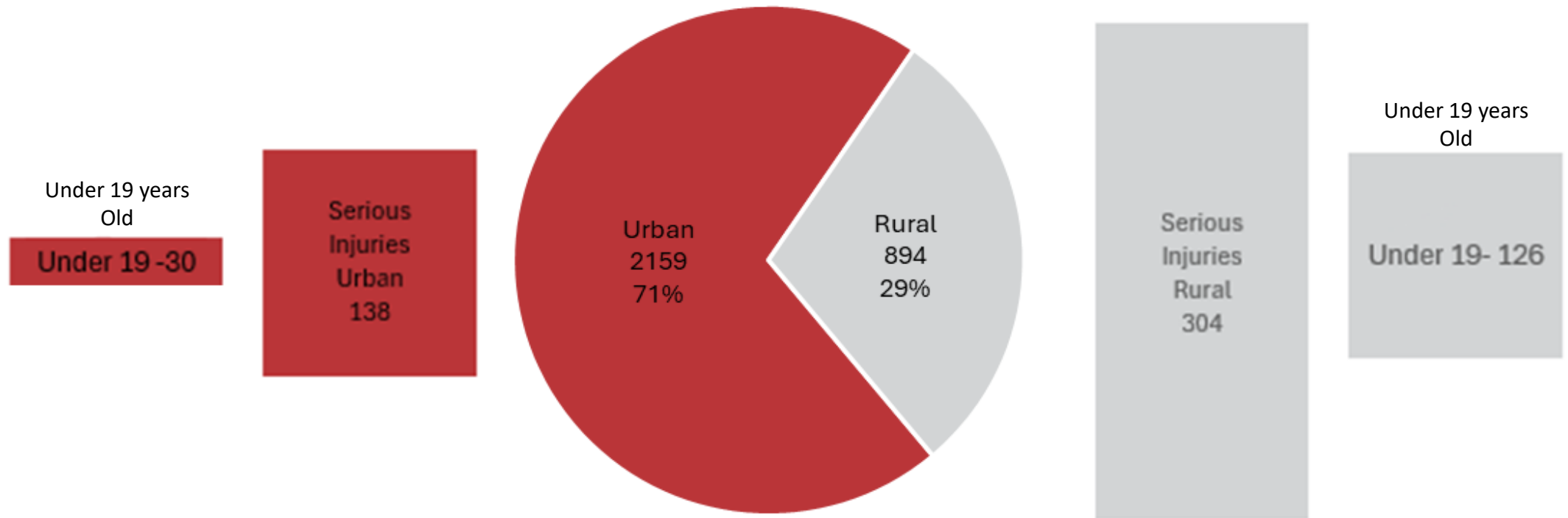
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Crashes Involving ATVs with Serious Injury Breakout (2020-2024)



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Injury Risk

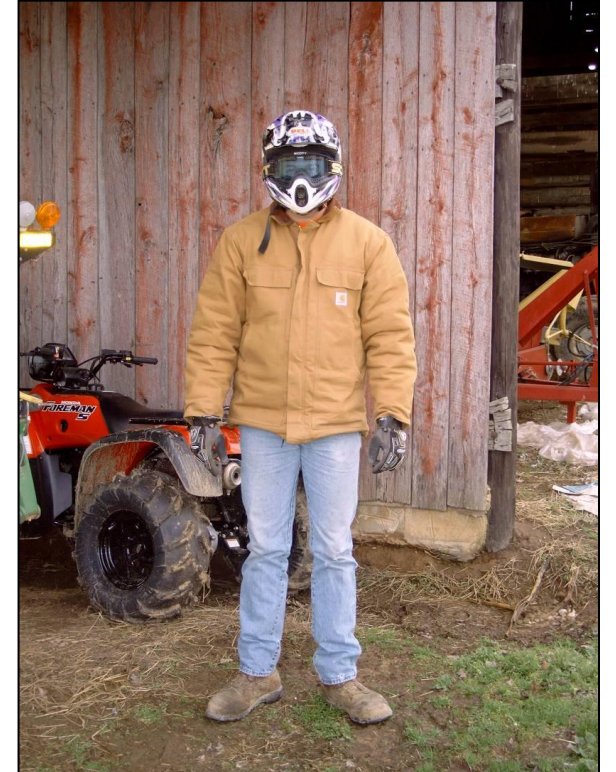
- Inexperienced operators are more likely to have injuries
- Nearly 1/3 of all ATV injuries are caused by riding double
- Highway operation increases the risk of injury
- Helmet usage significantly reduces the chance of traumatic injury or death



Importance of Proper ATV Fit

(Age of Operator Vs. Engine Size)

- Two approaches to determining operator fit to the ATV.
 - Machine engine size
 - Operator size



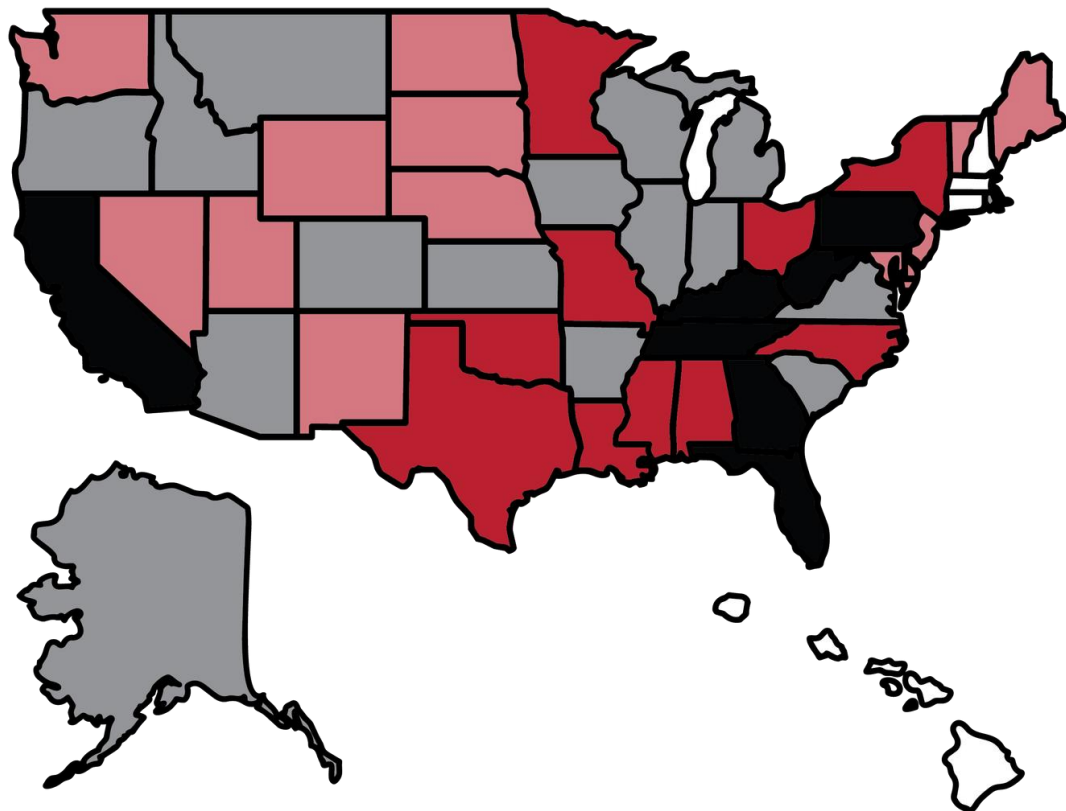
Passengers on ATVs

ATVs are not built for multiple riders

- Most ATVs are designed for one rider only.
- Safe operation depends on shifting body weight to control the vehicle.
- A passenger makes it difficult for the driver to shift properly, increasing the risk of losing control.
- Most ATVs do not have seats, handholds, or footrests for passengers

Higher risk of ejection and rollover

- Passengers are more likely to fall off or be ejected during turns or over rough terrain.
- Rear ejections are common and are associated with more severe head injuries.
- ATVs carrying passengers are more likely to roll over.



!! ATTENTION !!



Georgia has the **5TH** highest number of reported fatalities in the nation for off-road highway vehicle crashes.



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JOHN HUNTER

25-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN ATV CRASH

SUMMERVILLE MAN WAS A MEMBER OF SUBLIGNA BAPTIST AND A UGA GRAD

LOCAL 3 NEWS

Chattooga County, Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance

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UPDATE: A Summerville man is dead after crashing his ATV while driving north on West Armuchee Road this weekend.

John Clinton Hunter, 25, lost control while negotiating a right curve, according to a traffic report obtained by Local 3 News.

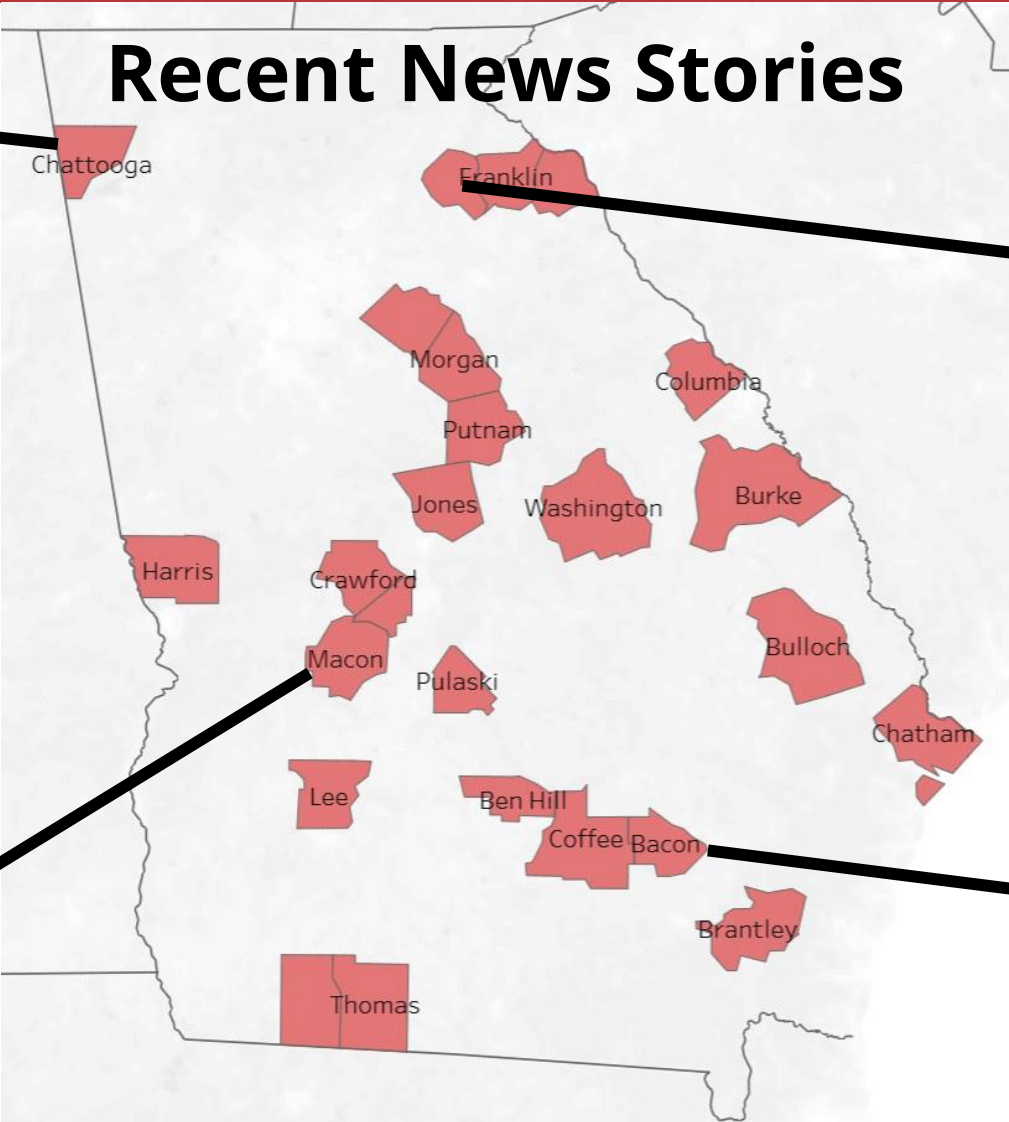
Two Ellaville men dead after Macon County crash involving semi and side-by-side

by Addison White | Fri, June 5, 2026 at 9:43 PM
Updated Fri, June 5, 2026 at 10:17 PM



Two Ellaville men dead after Macon County crash involving semi and side-by-side, June 5, 2026 (WGXA)

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Two people were critically injured in a UTV accident in western Banks County over the weekend...
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Two critically injured in Maysville UTV accident

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Bacon Co. Sheriff's Office

May 21 at 8:25 AM ·

FATAL ATV ACCIDENT

On Wednesday, May 20, at 6:42 PM, Deputies were dispatched to an ATV accident on Caraway Road, involving 7 individuals. Upon arrival, Deputies and First Responders located an overturned side-by-side with 3 adults and 4 juveniles being involved. Two of the adults were flown from the scene by Air Evac, and the 3rd adult was transported to the Bacon County Hospital, where he succumb to his injuries. One of the four juveniles suffered minor injuries. The accident was turned over to the Georgia State Patrol, which is conducting the investigation. See less



468

175

128

Which helmet(s) may be used when operating ATVs?



3



NOTE: State law may require the use of a helmet.

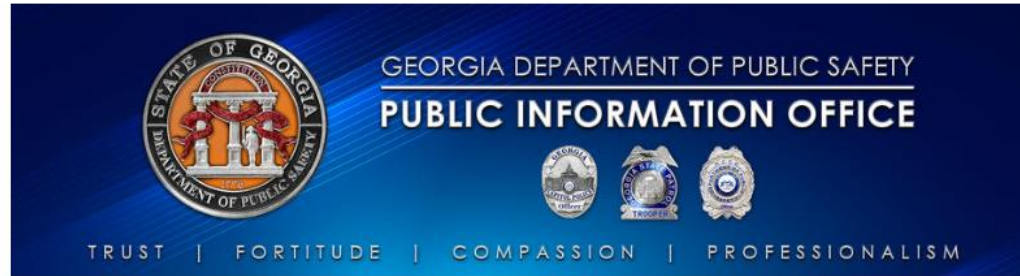


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JULY 17, 2025

Fourteen Off-Road Vehicle Fatalities Statewide: Georgia Troopers Urge Caution with ATVs, Golf Carts, and MPOHVs

(ATLANTA, GA) – With the summer season in full swing, the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding everyone to stay safe when using multipurpose off-highway vehicles (MPOHVs), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), low-speed vehicles (LSVs), and golf carts.

Between January 1 through June 20, 2025, the Georgia State Patrol investigated 42 crashes involving MPOHVs and ATVs, resulting in 13 fatalities (14 statewide) and 64 serious injuries (114 statewide) on Georgia's roadways. Of the 14 fatalities, eight involved MPOHVs and six were ATVs.

One tragic incident occurred on May 31, in Southeast Georgia, when a 16-year-old passenger on an ATV was killed after the vehicle left the road and hit a tree. Another fatal crash occurred when a 39-year-old driver was found deceased under an overturned MPOHV on private property in Middle Georgia on June 17, 2025.



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Where Can You Drive

- ATVs cannot be driven on roadways. IT IS ILLEGAL
- UTVs/ MPOHVs can only be driven on roads that are a part of the county road network, can cross highways that are part of a municipal street system, or part of the state highway system
- UTV/MPOHVs are not permitted to be driven on interstates, state highways, or city streets



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What is Required for the UTV

- Capable of operating between 25 MPH and 65 MPH
- Cannot be wider than 80 inches
- A gross vehicle weight rating less than 4,000 pounds
- A minimum cargo capacity of 350 pounds
- Must travel on four or more wheels, use a steering wheel, and use a non-straddle seat
- Must be equipped with headlights, brake lights, tail lights, a rear view mirror, and safety belts
- Vehicles are required to have a license plate issued by the County tag office and minimum liability auto insurance coverage
- The driver must have a valid driver's license

PAVEMENT IS NOT YOUR PLAYGROUND



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