

WSI

North Dakota Workforce
Safety & Insurance

Keeping People Safe: ATV's and UTV's



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ND Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI)

WSI is an exclusive, employer financed, no-fault insurance state fund covering workplace injuries and deaths.

As the sole provider and administrator of the workers' compensation system in North Dakota, WSI's vision is a **safe, secure, and healthy** North Dakota workforce.

ND Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI)

WSI's core purpose is to care for injured workers.

When employees are injured on the job, our highest priority is helping them regain their health and getting them back to work.

ND ATV and UTV Claims

Past 5 Years

- Over the past **5** years, **89** workers compensation insurance claims have been filed due to incidents associated with ATVs and UTVs in the workplace in North Dakota.
- **70** of those 89 occurred in the summer months of June, July, and August.

ATV Verses UTV Claims

Out of 89 Claims

67 ATV Injuries

22 UTV Injuries

NDAOC WSI Claims Past 5 Years

13 out of the **89** incidents were injuries to NDAOC employees

5 of the 13 incidents were in 2024

Top Reasons For Injuries

- 32** Roll over
- 10** Tip over sideways OR tip backwards (Did not roll)
- 7** Fell from moving ATV
- 3** ATV/UTV Struck by moving vehicle, train, ATV

Claims Costs Past 5 Years For All ATV/UTV Incidents

Several of the incidents have generated serious injuries and equipment damage from vehicle upset/rollovers.

Over **\$4,303,819** of workers compensation claims costs have resulted. Many of those costs were due to crushing, fractures, and contusions.

Incident Causes

- ✓ New Employee, Inexperience
- ✓ Rushing
- ✓ Washout/Rut/Hole
- ✓ Rocks/Trees
- ✓ Debris/Garbage
- ✓ Culvert
- ✓ Steep Slope
- ✓ Mud/Water/Ice

Incident Prevention

- ✓ Training: Both classroom and hands on.
- ✓ Get familiar with the equipment before driving it offroad.
- ✓ Assess terrain before crossing. Look ahead. Scan your environment.
- ✓ **Choose a route with the least grade.**

Incident Prevention

- ✓ UTV: Wear your seat belt.
- ✓ ATV and UTV: Wear a DOT rated helmet.
- ✓ **Avoid crossing roadways where visibility is restricted.**
- ✓ Use caution with the weight/volume of liquid chemicals in totes mounted on the back of ATV/UTV.
 - Sloshing on a slope could cause tipping

Incident Prevention

- ✓ UTV: Keep arms inside the equipment when driving.
- ✓ Use caution when navigating turns or when crossing approaches.
- ✓ Use caution driving on gravel roads.
- ✓ **Slow down! Drive a safe speed! Don't rush!**

Incident Prevention

Driving on a steep slope



Option #1:

- Don't drive an ATV/UTV on a steep slope.
- Find another method to spray the hillside such as parking at bottom and using the handheld hose to spray.
- Use a boom truck to spray slopes.

Option #2:

- Walk the route to identify hazards such as washouts, culverts, holes, or rocks before driving in a ditch or on an incline.
- **Don't drive horizontally to slope.** Remember the liquid chemical weight and movement while driving uneven ground can shift the weight of the ATV/UTV. A washout hidden in the grass can also cause a rollover.

OSHA Case Study: Hazards Associated with All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) in the Workplace

- In June of **2003**, the Bismarck, North Dakota OSHA Area Office investigated an accident where an employee was **fatally injured** while **driving an ATV uphill on rough terrain**.
- The employer had fitted the ATV with a sprayer mounted on the rear cargo rack. The ATV was being used to apply herbicide to off-road weeds when the accident occurred.

- As an employee drove the ATV uphill on the rough terrain, its front wheels came off the ground and the ATV flipped over.
- The employee tried to prevent the ATV from flipping by standing and shifting her weight; the employee eventually tried to jump from the ATV as it flipped over, but could not jump clear and was fatally crushed.



- OSHA's investigation identified **decreased vehicle stability** as the major cause of the accident.
- **The addition of the sprayer to the ATV's rear cargo rack reduced vehicle stability by changing the distribution of vehicle weight over the wheelbase.**
- The sprayer exceeded the manufacturer's weight limit for the rear cargo rack by approximately 55 pounds (lbs.).
- OSHA's investigation also showed that the **decrease in ATV stability** was compounded when the ATV was **driven up a hill on rough terrain.**

Drive Safely – Remember To

- Reduce your driving speed
- Look out for hazards in your pathway
- Wear your seat belt/helmet
- Use caution on slopes
- Slow down, don't rush

The most effective way to prevent ATV/UTV incidents for activities such as herbicide spraying is utilizing technology such as drones to eliminate employees being in hazardous situations.

