

**Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
All-Terrain Vehicle  
Enforcement & Safety Report**

**2004**



**PO Box 7921  
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2004 ATV Annual  
Program Report

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**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Law Enforcement  
2004 ATV Report  
Summary**

The 2004 ATV report is compiled from the seven-teen fatal investigations and other data collected during the calendar year. The report is based on the growing number of ATVs used and the Department's commitment to promote safe riding by observing trends and providing solutions in areas of concern.

Conservation wardens investigate all fatal ATV incidents and as such, Wisconsin Law requires that a conservation warden or law enforcement officer be notified immediately of any ATV incident that results in a fatality or an injury requiring medical treatment by a physician. In addition, the operator(s) involved in these reportable incidents must file a written report with the Department of Natural Resources within 10 days of the incident, insofar as they are capable of doing so.

**FATAL INCIDENT CAUSES**

The ATV striking a fixed object was the leading cause of death containing seven. The second factor causing the fatal incident was the ATV rolling over containing six. The third factor was a collision with another ATV containing two. Data shows that alcohol as a contributing factor is lower this reporting period (11%) than it was the previous reporting period (56%).

The law expressly states a person operating an ATV is under the influence of alcohol once blood alcohol levels reach 0.08. Of the ten toxicology reports, two showed those victims had consumed some alcohol. Looking closer at the two victims who had consumed alcohol, one had blood-alcohol readings of higher than 0.20. Although the fatal incident data is not statistically large, the information indicates that "alcohol as a factor" has continued to decreased for the past several years.

**WHO WAS INVOLVED**

All but one of the fatal accident victims involved were male. The ages of the fatal victims ranged from 11-59 years, with the average age listed at 29. All but four of the seventeen victims were Wisconsin residents. The largest percentage (5 out of the 17) of the victims killed between the ages of 12-16. One child under the age of 12 was killed during this reporting period (11 years old). None of the victims had received formal ATV Safety Training from the Department of Natural Resources. Of the seventeen victims, six were positively known to have been wearing a helmet.

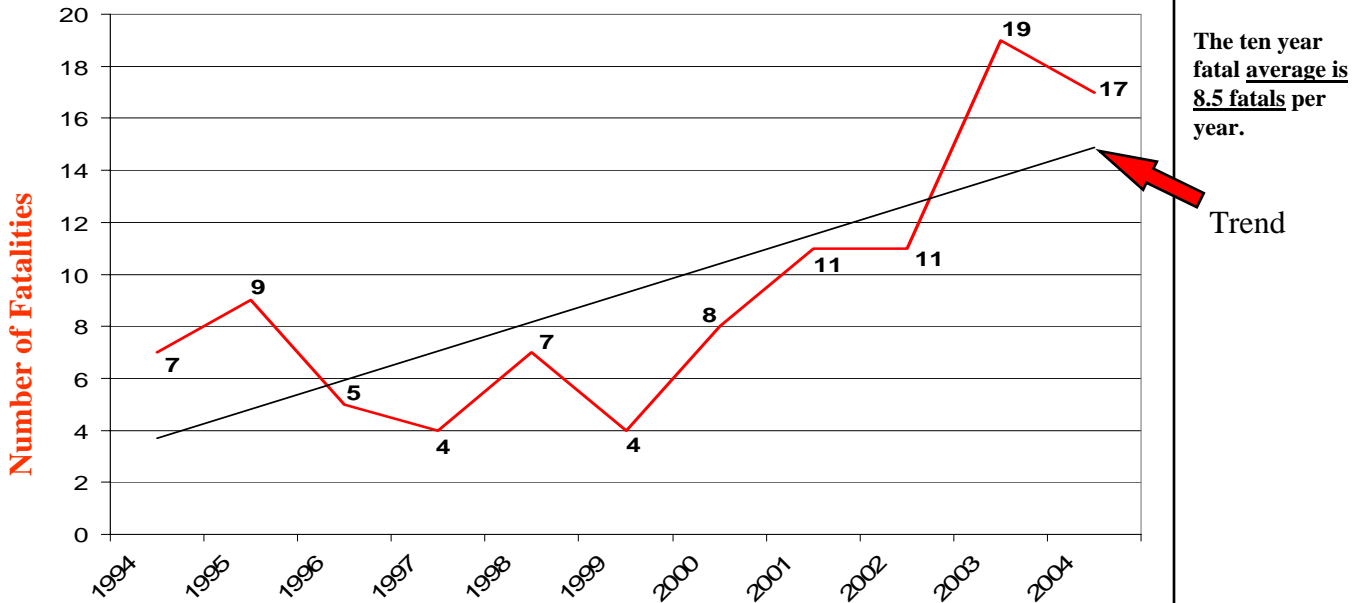
**WHEN DO THE INCIDENTS OCCUR**

The highest percentage of fatalities continues to occur on a Sunday with five victims, Saturday with four, and Tuesday and Friday with three each followed by Monday and Wednesday with 1 each. The time of day/night that most of the fatal crashes occurred between 12pm – 9:30pm with one near 2am.

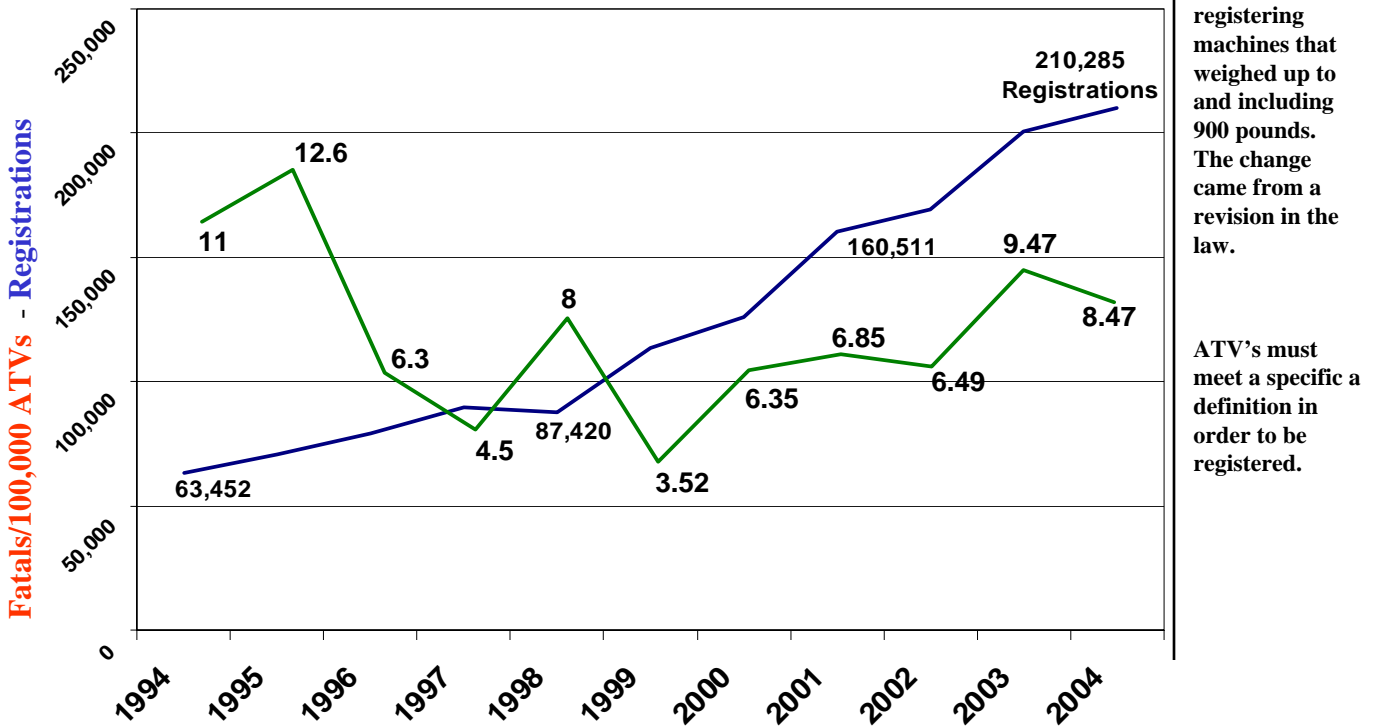
**FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED**

New ATV purchases continued to result in significant increases in registered ATV's and users.

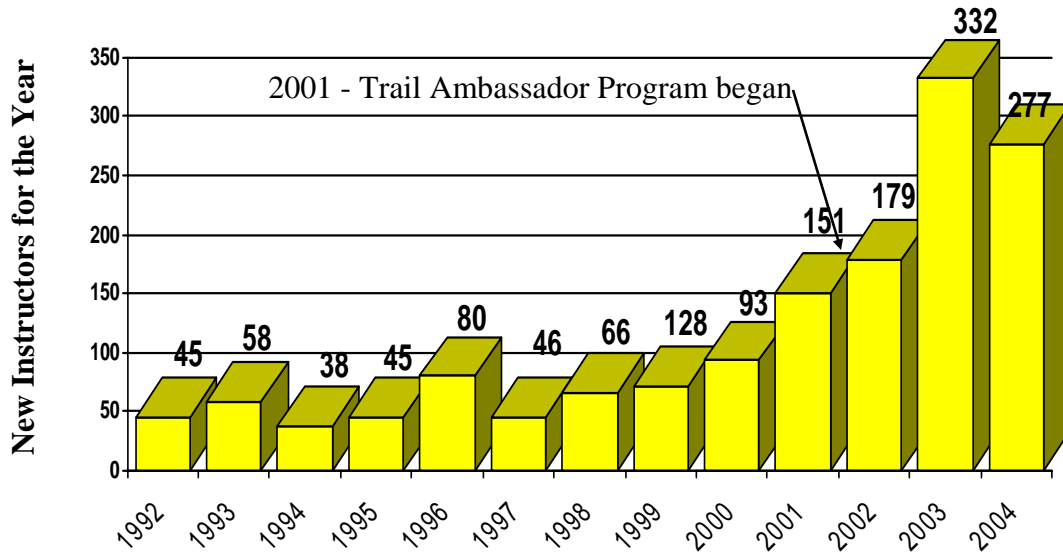
## History of ATV Fatalities By Calendar Year



## ATV Fatality Rate Per 100,000 Registered ATVs



## History of New ATV Education Instructors Certified

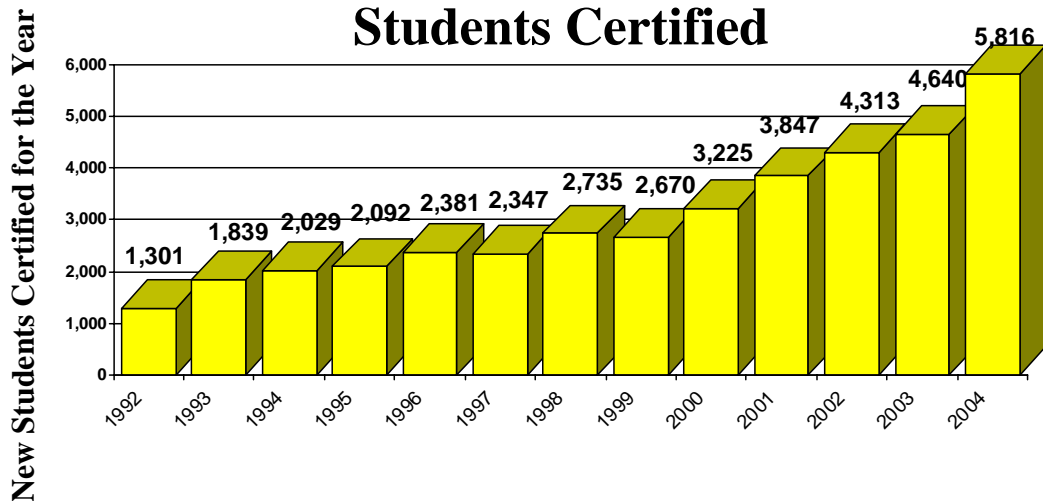


There were a total of 1,197 active instructors for the year 2004.

There were 262 ATV safety training courses held during 2004.

Historical results have shown the majority of the fatal victims have not been WI ATV safety graduates.

## History of ATV Education Students Certified



The ATV Safety Education program began in 1986.

The total number of students certified for the entire history of the ATV program at the end of 2004 is 45,035.

Alcohol was detected in 11% of the victims for 2004 .

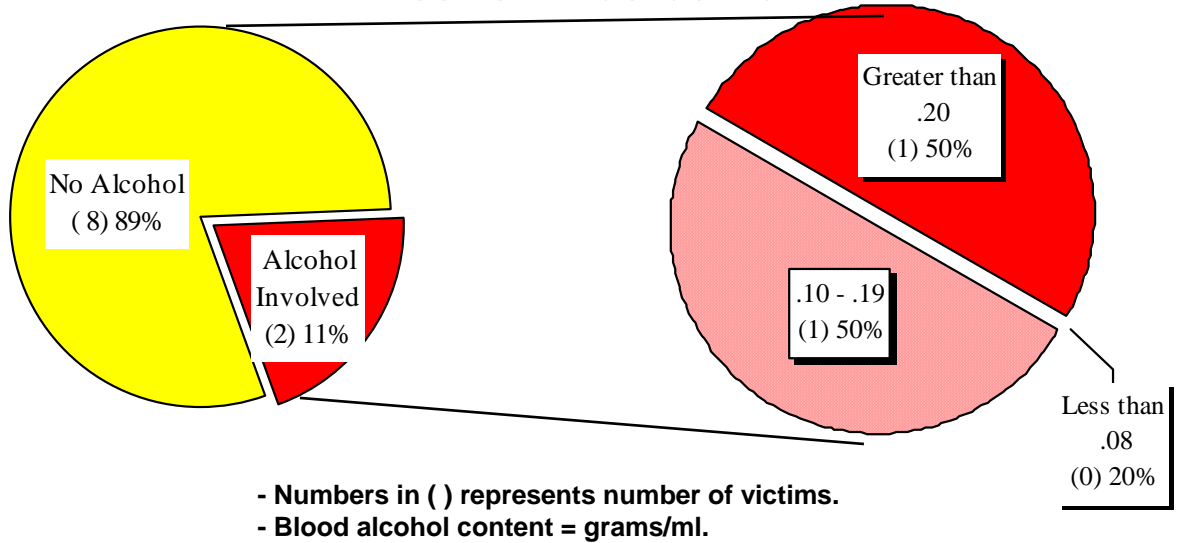
Alcohol was detected in 56% of the victims for 2003 .

Alcohol was detected in 46% of the victims for 2002.

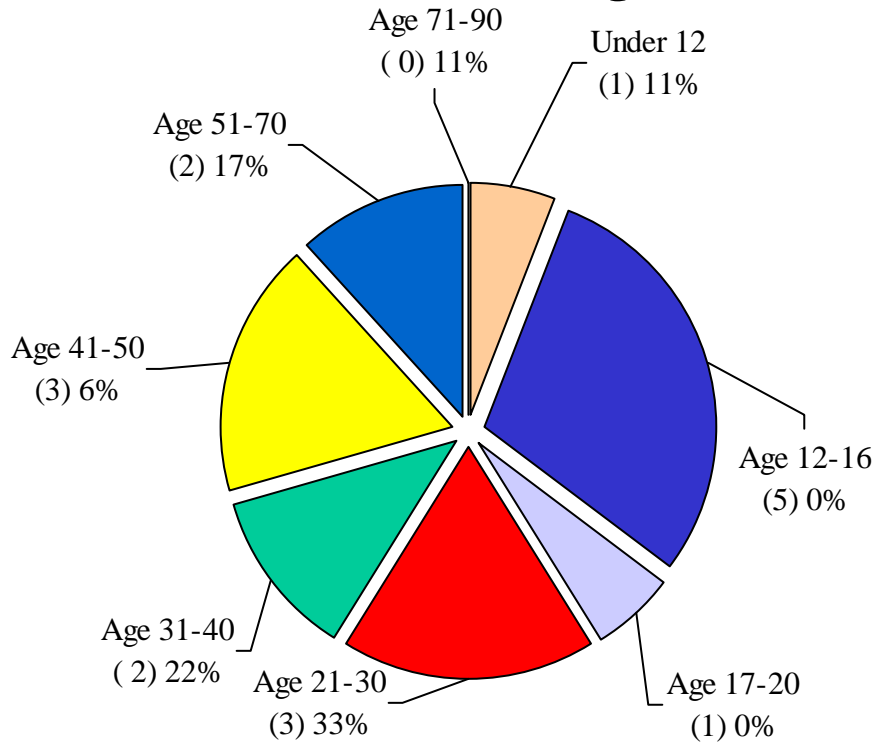
Alcohol was detected 27% of the victims for 2001.

One of the 2004 victims had blood alcohol levels above 0.2.

## 2004 ATV Fatalities Alcohol Involvement



## 2004 ATV Fatalities Age of Victims



The average age of the fatality victim was 41 years old a increase from the previous year (25.9).

The largest percentage of the victims killed was between the ages of 21-30.

## 2004 Citations Issued for ATV Violations

<b>Total Citations</b> (including wardens and sheriff patrols).....	<b>1,085</b>
Operate ATV w/o Registration (V-1) .....	175
Permit ATV Operation w/o Registration (V-2) .....	68
Operate ATV in a Careless Manner (V-3).....	23
Operate ATV While Intoxicated (V-4).....	35
Operate ATV on Private Property w/o Permission (V-5).....	106
Operate ATV on Native American Lands w/o Permission (V-6).....	0
Transport Loaded or Uncased Firearm, or Bow on ATV (V-7) .....	9
Drive or pursue Wild Animal with ATV (V-8) .....	1
Operate ATV within 150' of Dwelling over 10-MPH (V-9).....	8
Operate ATV over 10-MPH on Ice within 100' of Persons or Shanty (V-10, V-21) ..	16
Illegal Operating of ATV on or Near Highways (V-11).....	437
ATV Equipment Violations (V-12) .....	34
Fail to Report ATV Accident (V-13).....	2
Fail to Stop ATV for Officer (V-14).....	15
Fail to Transfer Registration of ATV (V-15).....	8
Fail to Display or Improper Display of Registration (V-16) .....	43
Fail to Notify DNR with Change of Address (V-17).....	1
Dealer Fail to Collect Fee and Submit Registration Application (V-18).....	3
Operate on a Cemetery, Burial Ground, School, Church w/o Permission (V-19).....	3
Operate at Speed that is Unreasonable or Improper (V-20) .....	16
Owner Permitting Operation by Person Under Age, or Disabled (V-22).....	117
Operate with Alcohol Concentration Above 0.1% (V-23) .....	26
Refuse to Take Intoxicated ATV Test (V-24) .....	6
Absolute Sobriety for Person under 19 (V-25) .....	1
Cause Injury by Intoxicated Operation (V-26).....	0
Miscellaneous (V-27).....	2
Operate/Ride ATV w/o Head Gear (V-28).....	136
Interference with Signs and Standards (V-29).....	0

### Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2004

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet
1.	4/4/04	Town of Pensaukee (Roadway)	Struck a tree	12	.000	No
	15:58	Oconto County	Fractured Skull/Ruptured Spleen/Speed	M	WI	

The ATV was being operated on paved surface and then left the roadway, went through a barbed wire fence, striking a tree and tearing off the left front tire. The ATV then flipped ejecting both occupants. Neither victim or passenger were wearing a helmet. Passenger received a laceration to one of her legs.

2.	4/20/04	Town of Columbus (Private Land)	Roll over	59	.000	No
	UNK	Dodge County	Multi Chest Trauma/Head Injuries	M	WI	

The victim had not returned home from looking for a calf & was found lying in a field with the ATV on top of him.

3.	5/9/04	Town of Randall (Road)	Collision with fixed object	47	NA	No
	21:20	Kenosha County	Speed/Alcohol/Head & Impact Injury	M	WI	

It appears the ATV left the roadway, hitting the gravel shoulder and then into the grass area hitting a culvert.

4.	5/28/04	Town of Pine Valley (Road)	Struck by a vehicle.	14	NA	Yes
	19:20	Clark County	Head & Internal Injuries	F	WI	

The operator failed to stop for a stop sign at the Hwy and was struck by a vehicle.

5.	6/5/04	Town of Sampson (Private Property)	Roll over	57	.000	No
	UNK	Chippewa County	Head Injury	M	MN	

The victim was reported missing on June 7<sup>th</sup> after leaving his home in MN on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The victim was discovered at the bottom of a hill next to an ATV. It appears as though the victim attempted to climb the hill with his ATV but lost control and rolled the ATV over, down the hill.

### Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2004

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet
6.	6/22/04	Town of Maple Grove (Private Property)	Roll over	11	.000	Yes
	21:54	Barron County	Trauma / Asphyxia	M	WI	
<p>The victim was operating on private property where ATV trails were present and it appears that he left the trail and overturned. The distance from the trail to final resting spot of the ATV was 61 feet.</p>						
7.	6/29/04	Town of Saxon (Trail)	Roll over	24	.000	No
	20:00	Iron County	Speed/Deer on Trail/Head & Neck Injury	M	WI	
<p>The victim applied his brakes after a deer jumped out onto the trail making the ATV flip, throwing the passenger into the woods and then rolling over on the victim.</p>						
8.	7/5/04	Town of Webb Lake (Roadway)	Collision with fixed object	35	UNK	No
	14:52	Burnett County	Head Injuries	M	MN	
<p>The victim lost control of the ATV he was operating went off the road and into the ditch where he struck a stump. The victim and the ATV went into the air and struck several small white pines before striking a jack pine.</p>						
9.	7/17/05	Town of Orienta (Roadway)	Collision with parked ATV	39	UNK	No
	11:45	Bayfield	Speed/Head Injuries	M	WI	
<p>The victim came up fast behind a parked ATV and attempted to swerve to avoid hitting the ATV. The victim made slight contact with the parked ATV flipped and rolled.</p>						
10.	7/18/04	Town of Hewett (Trail)	Collision with fixed object	17	.000	Yes
	12:42	Clark	Speed/Head, Neck & Internal Injuries	M	WI	
<p>It appears that the victim came to a curve in the trail, missed the curve and continued to go straight off the trail. At 20 feet off the trail his ATV hit a tree stump where he and the ATV went air borne striking a tree 35 feet from the stump.</p>						

### Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2004

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet
11.	8/1/04	Town of Wilson (Roadway)	Collision with fixed object	30	.109	Yes
	16:50	Lincoln	Speed/Trail Conditions/Chest & Neck Injury	M	WI	
<p>The victim was the last person in a group of three traveling approx. 45 MPH down the middle of the road/ATV route when he started to drift to the right, hitting the shoulder of the road, losing control of the ATV going 114 feet before striking a road sign.</p>						
12.	8/14/04	Town of Fifield (Trail)	Collision with fixed object	25	UNK	No
	18:54	Price County	Head & Impact Injury/Alcohol/Speed	M	IL	
<p>The victim and passenger were traveling on a ATV trail when the victim failed to negotiate a right hand curve, lost control of the ATV, left the trail and struck a tree and rocks. The passenger was thrown off the ATV.</p>						
13.	8/20/04	Town of Scott	Collision with a dog	13	.000	No
	12:38	Sheboygan County	Speed/Head Trauma	F	WI	
<p>The victim was operating a 500 cc ATV on a road with a 15-year old passenger. Neither rider was wearing a helmet. A dog ran into the roadway and the ATV (estimated speed – 40 MPH) is believed to have hit the dog, which contributed to the crash.</p>						
14.	10/3/04	Town of Oma (Trail)	Roll over	42	.229	No
	21:07	IronCounty	Alcohol / Traumatic Asphyxia	M	MI	
<p>The victim was the last in a group of three riders. The first two noticed that the victim was no longer behind them and upon turning around they found the victim pinned under his ATV.</p>						

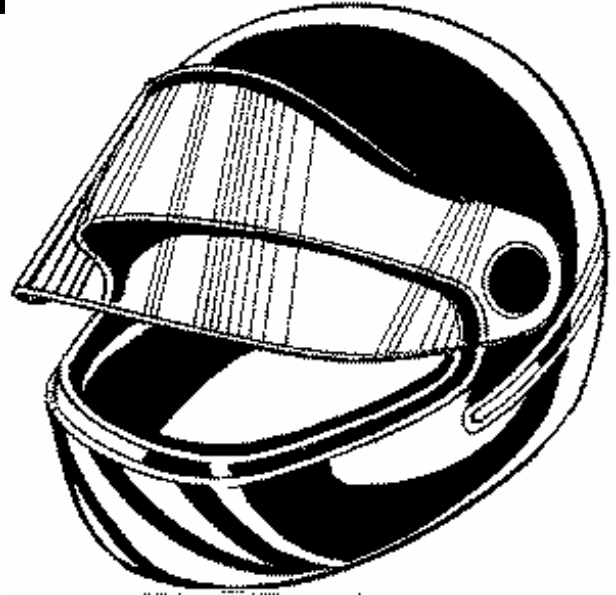
### Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2004

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet
15.	10/8/04	City of Hurley (Trail)	Collision with another ATV	49	NA	Yes
	02:04	Iron County	Pneumonia resulting from multiple traumatic injuries / Alcohol / Speed	M	WI	
<p>The victim and two companions were on their way back to their room from the bar when one noticed that the other two were not with him, upon turning round and heading back he found the victim was injured &amp; on the ground next to his ATV. The victim later passed on 11/19/04 at the hospital.</p>						
16.	12/25/04	Town of Monico (Road)	Struck a guy wire.	14	UNK	Yes
	15:35	Oneida County	Impact & internal Injury	M	WI	
<p>The victim was found by a group of snowmobilers. The investigation indicated that the victim struck a guy wire of a power pole and was ejected from the ATV.</p>						
17.	12/29/04	Town of Waterloo (Road)	Roll over	13	.000	No
	12:45	Grant County	Head & Neck Injuries	M	WI	
<p>The victim was pulling a homemade wagon filled with wood when he lost control, went down an embankment, overturning the ATV on it's side, pinning the victim.</p>						

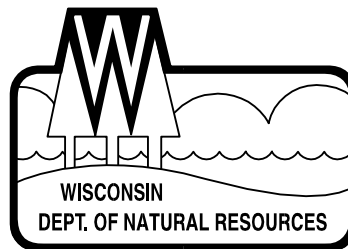
**WEAR YOUR HELMET**

While you **Ride**  
**Responsibly...**  
**Under control...**  
&  
**SOBER**

and you will....



**Ride for life**



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