

Off-road Vehicles

NWT residents are much more likely to die from hurting themselves on ATVs and snowmobiles than other Canadians.

Six NWT residents died on snowmobiles during the 1990s. Most of them died by drowning when the snowmobile went into the water. People who hurt themselves on snowmobiles or ATVs are most likely to have broken arms or legs or to injure their heads.

People between the ages of 15 and 25 are at higher risk. Other groups at higher risk are males, Dene, Inuit and residents of smaller communities.

ATVs and snowmobiles can be very dangerous. ATVs can roll over easily and people often get hurt when they fall off - sometimes the ATV runs over them after they've fallen off and hurts them even more. Snowmobile injuries often happen when the snowmobile crashes or the rider falls off. If people have been drinking, they are more likely to get hurt.

How can I stay safe on my ATV or snowmobile?

- **Always wear a helmet.** Helmets protect your brain if you crash.
- **Never drink and drive.** People who have been drinking are more likely to get hurt. Never get on an ATV or snowmobile with someone who is drunk.
- **Be very careful when driving on ice.** Most of the people who died on snowmobiles during the 1990s drowned when they crashed through thin ice.
- **Don't let young kids go out alone.** These machines go very fast and it's not safe for young children to drive them. They can be hard to turn, which means kids can get hurt.

