

**Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
All-Terrain Vehicle  
Enforcement & Safety Report -2008**



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Recreation Enforcement and Education Section**

In 2008, Wisconsin unfortunately had 12 fatalities, half of the record high 24 in 2007. Speed was listed as a contributing factor in a half of the crashes. Wisconsin also registered 272,202 ATVs in 2008, down from 314,174 in 2007. Registrations include Public Use, Private Use and Municipal Use. A total of 282 ATV Safety Courses were taught by 1,198 active volunteer instructors, which certified 5,680 students. This adds to the grand total of 71,421 students certified in ATV Safety since the program began in 1986. The Department continues to work with the Department of Tourism, The Off-Road Vehicle Council and the Wisconsin ATV Association to promote safe and ethical ATV operation throughout the state.

### **Factors**

Three of the twelve fatal crashes were listed as alcohol involved, however blood test results were unavailable for 7 of the victims. Crashes are listed as alcohol involved if any detectable amount of alcohol is found in the victim's body or witnesses verified that the victim had been consuming alcohol. 37 operators were arrested for operating an ATV while intoxicated, down from the 57 arrested in 2007. Once again, the vast majority of the fatal crash victims fail to protect themselves through use of a helmet. Over the last five years, an average of 75% of the victims were not wearing a helmet. The top location for fatal ATV crashes in 2008 were Public Roads. Six were on roads not open to legal ATV Traffic and four were on roads that were legally open (ATV Route) to ATV traffic. The Department of Natural Resources is becoming more concerned with roadway use of ATVs in Wisconsin. The number of roadways opened up to ATVs by local municipalities continues to increase as ATV owners pressure local governments for places to ride. This is a very unsafe trend, as ATVs are not designed for on-road use. ATVs are equipped with soft, low pressure tires and have a high center of gravity that makes them unstable on roadways and prone to rollover. For the past several years, the most frequent ATV citation issued by law enforcement officers is for illegal operation on or near a highway. A majority of the fatality victims had not completed a Wisconsin ATV Safety Course. Wisconsin requires all ATV operators at least age 12 and born after December 31, 1988 to complete a state or provincial certified ATV safety course to operate in public areas. This age group typically makes up the smallest portion of the fatality victims each year.

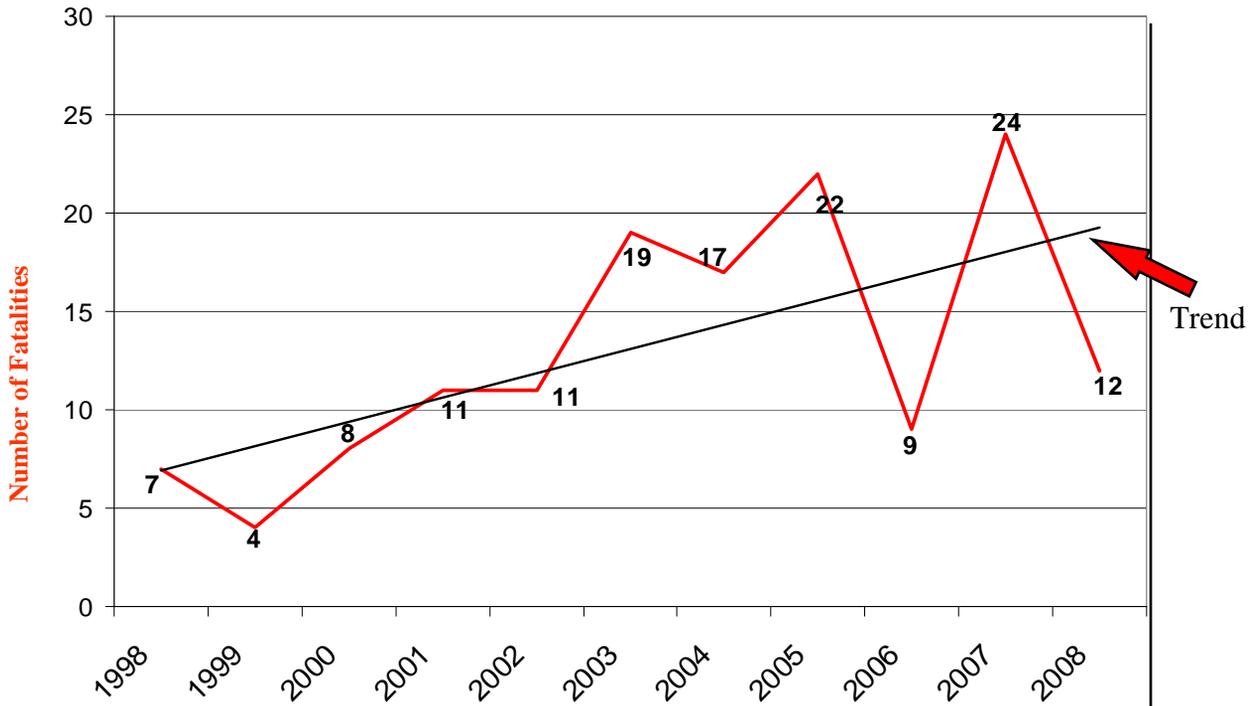
### **Safety Tips**

To ensure safe, enjoyable and ethical ATV use in Wisconsin the Department recommends the following safety tips:

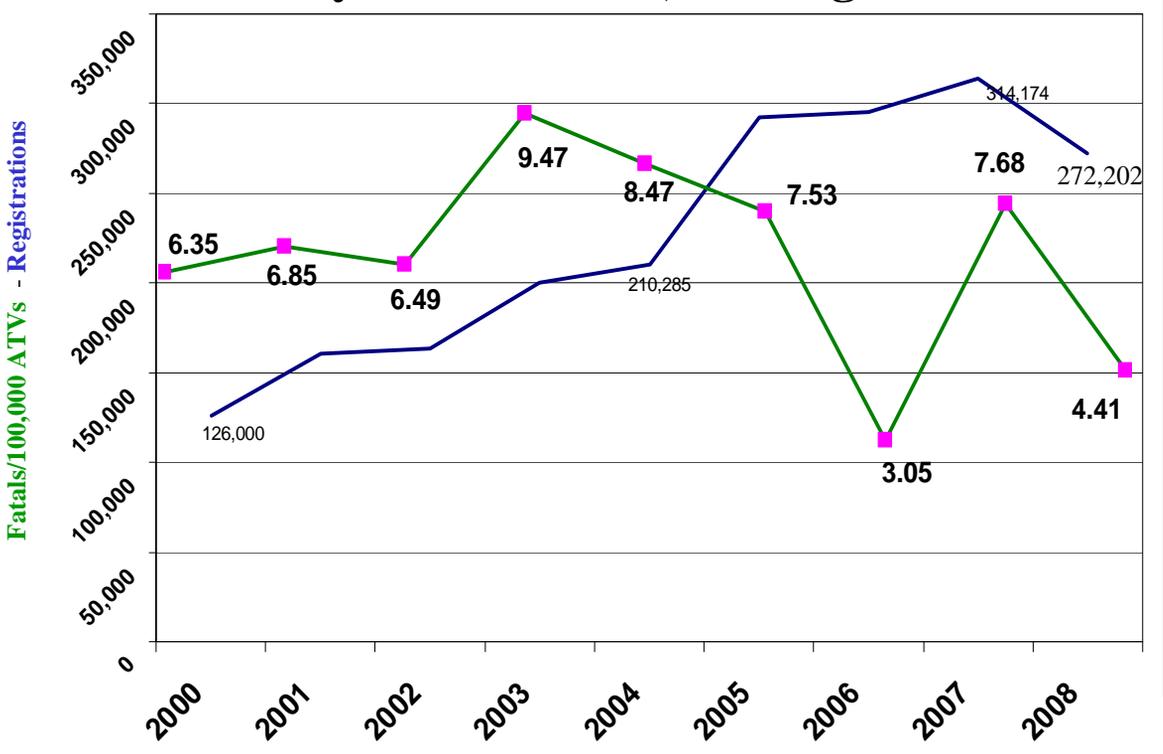
- Complete an ATV safety course. These courses establish a safety mindset and provide basic knowledge in the safe, legal and ethical operation of ATVs.
- Always wear an approved helmet. Adults need to set a good example for younger riders.
- Limit your travel on roads and use a high degree caution if you feel it is absolutely necessary to operate on a road when legal.
- Use a higher degree of caution on private lands. Private lands tend to contain trails that are not maintained and additional hazards such as uneven terrain, rocks, ditches, machinery and buildings.
- Don't drink and ride. Even a small amount of alcohol will affect a person's reaction time. Wait until you're done riding for the day before consuming alcoholic beverages.
- Slow down. Keep speeds down, especially when in close proximity to other people and ATV operators. ATVs typically operate on off-road terrain and higher speeds could cause operators to easily lose control. Higher speeds also increase the amount of distance needed to stop or avoid a hazard.

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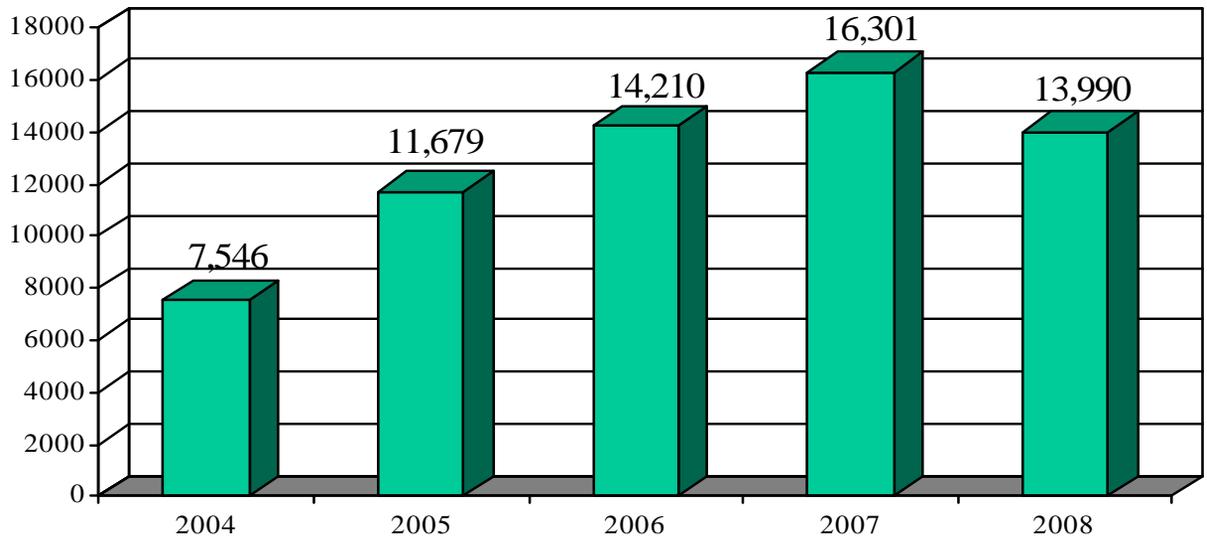
# History of ATV Fatalities By Calendar Year



# ATV Fatality Rate Per 100,000 Registered ATVs



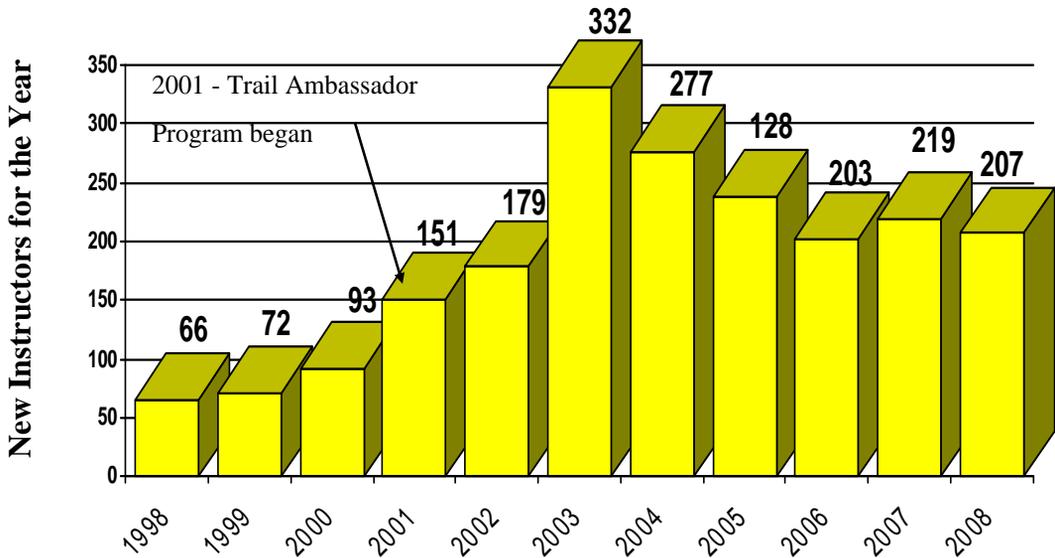
# Number of ATV Trail Passes Sold



On April 28, 2004 the law changed requiring non-resident ATV trail passes on all out of state ATVs not registered in Wisconsin.



## History of New ATV Education Instructors Certified



There were a total of 1,198 active instructors for the year 2008.

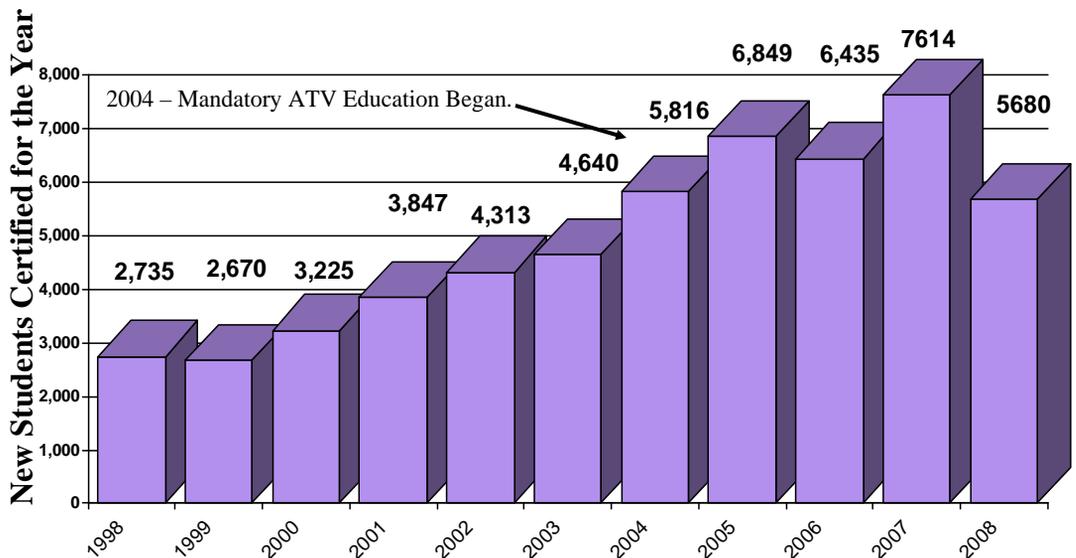
There were 282 ATV safety training courses held during 2008.

The ATV Safety Education program began in 1986.

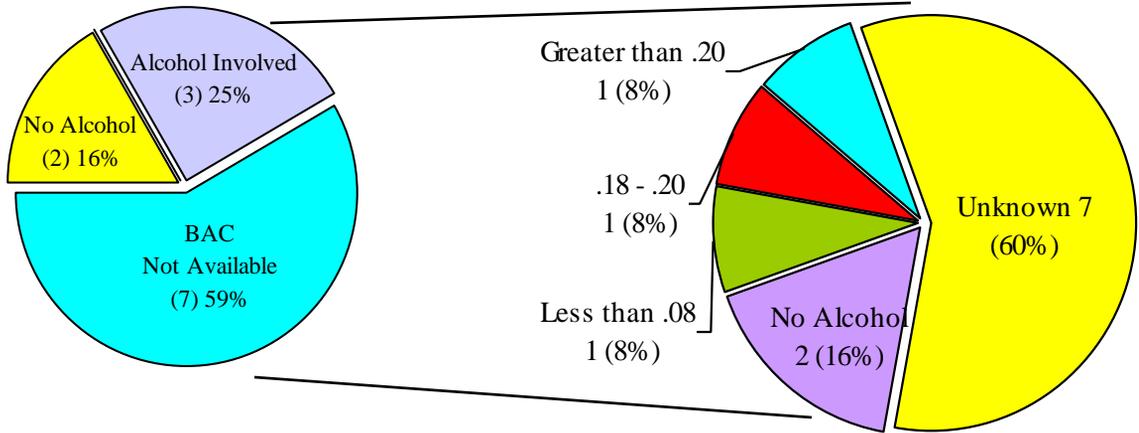
On April 28, 2004 the law changed requiring mandatory ATV education for operators at least 12 and born after December 31, 1988.

The total number of students certified for the entire history of the ATV program at the end of 2008 is 71,421.

## History of ATV Education Students Certified



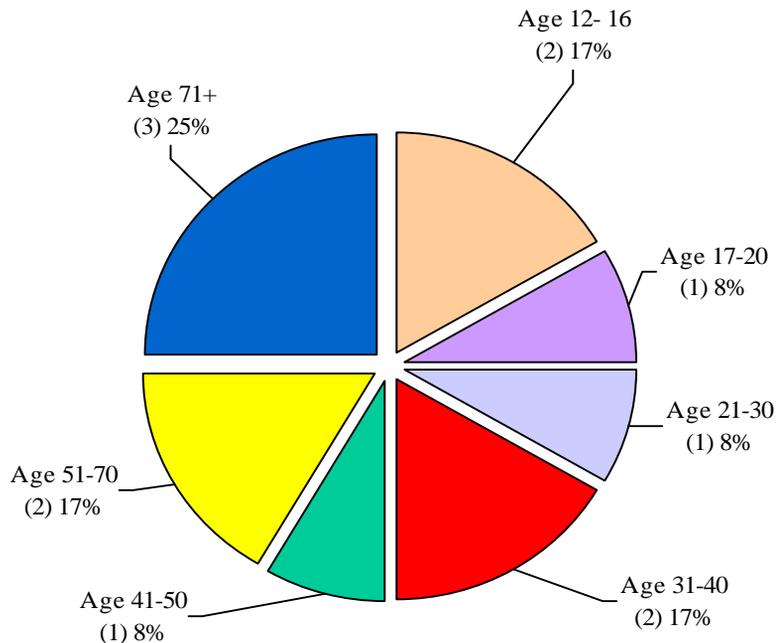
## 2008 ATV Fatalities Alcohol Involvement



Alcohol was detected in 25% of the victims for 2008.

- Numbers in ( ) represents number of victims.
- Blood alcohol content = grams/ml.

## 2008 ATV Fatalities Age of Victims

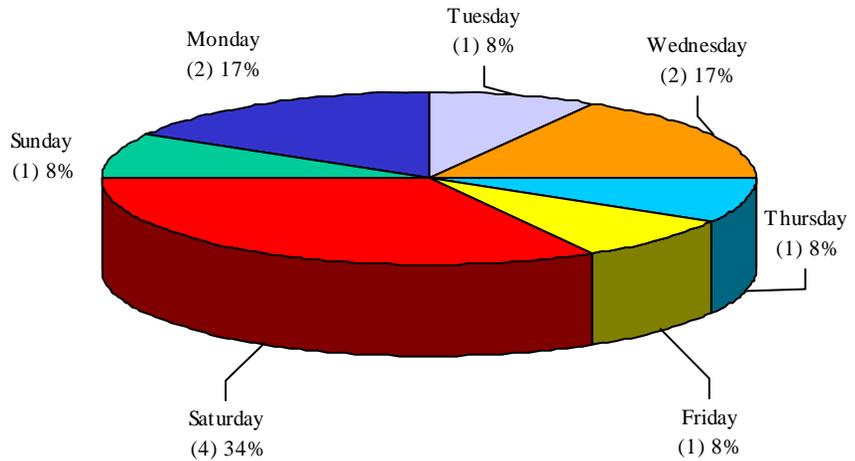


The average age of the fatality victim was 44 years old an increase from the previous year (41).

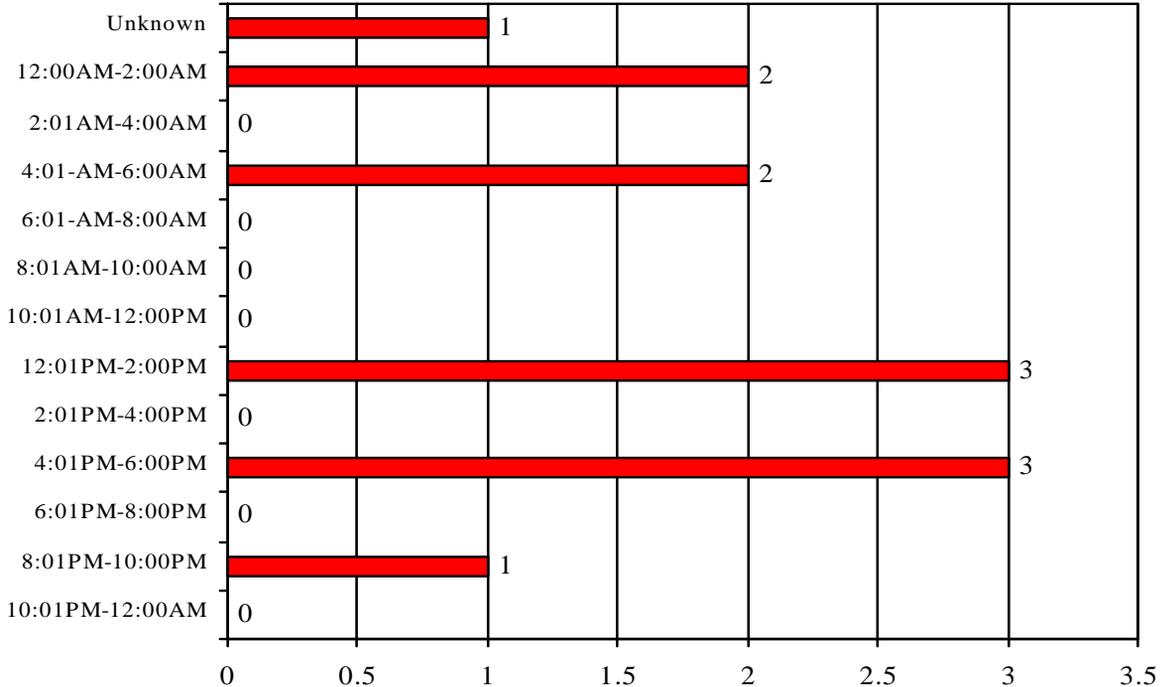
The largest percentage of the victims killed was age 71+ years of age.

# 2008 ATV Fatal Incidents by Day of Week

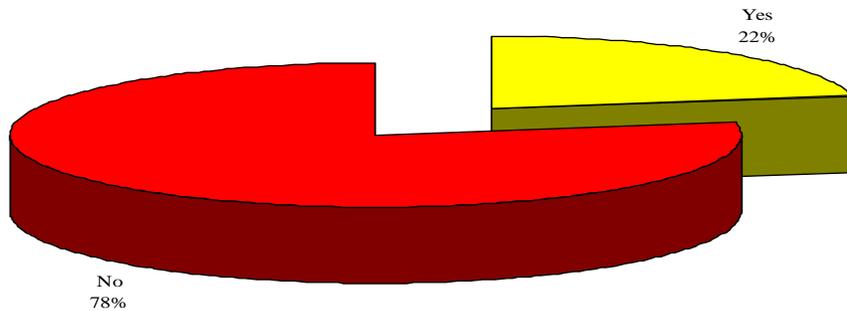
Fatal Incidents typically have the highest frequency of occurrence on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays.



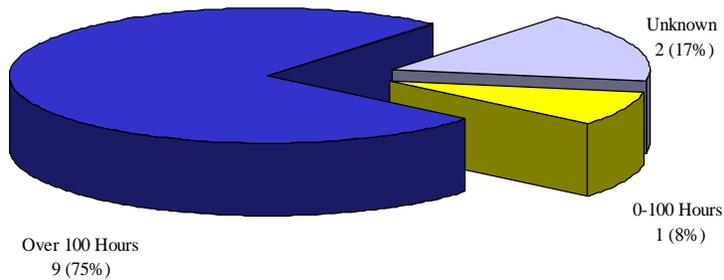
# 2008 ATV Fatal Incident by Time of Day



## 2008 Fatal Incident ATV Helmet Use

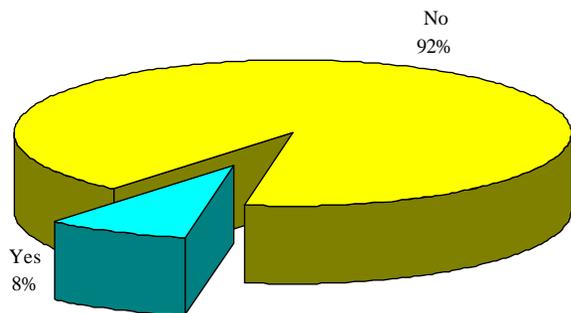


## 2008 Fatal Incident ATV Operator Experience

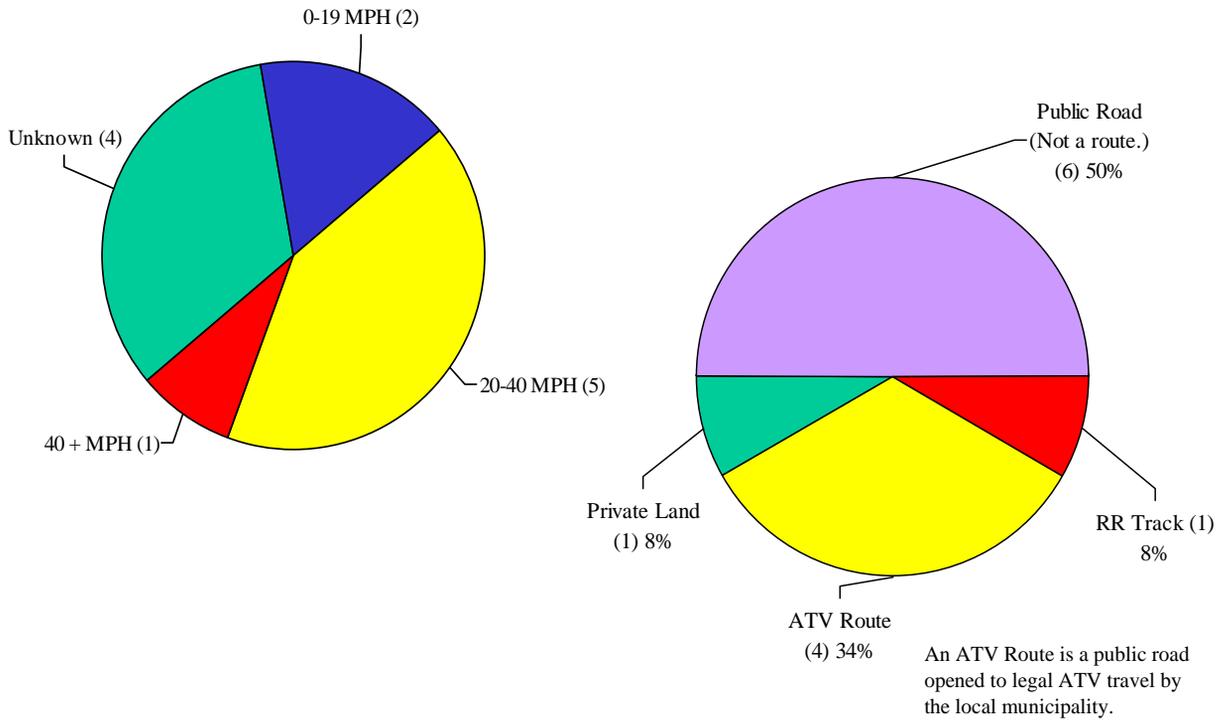


## 2008 Operator ATV Safety Training Certification

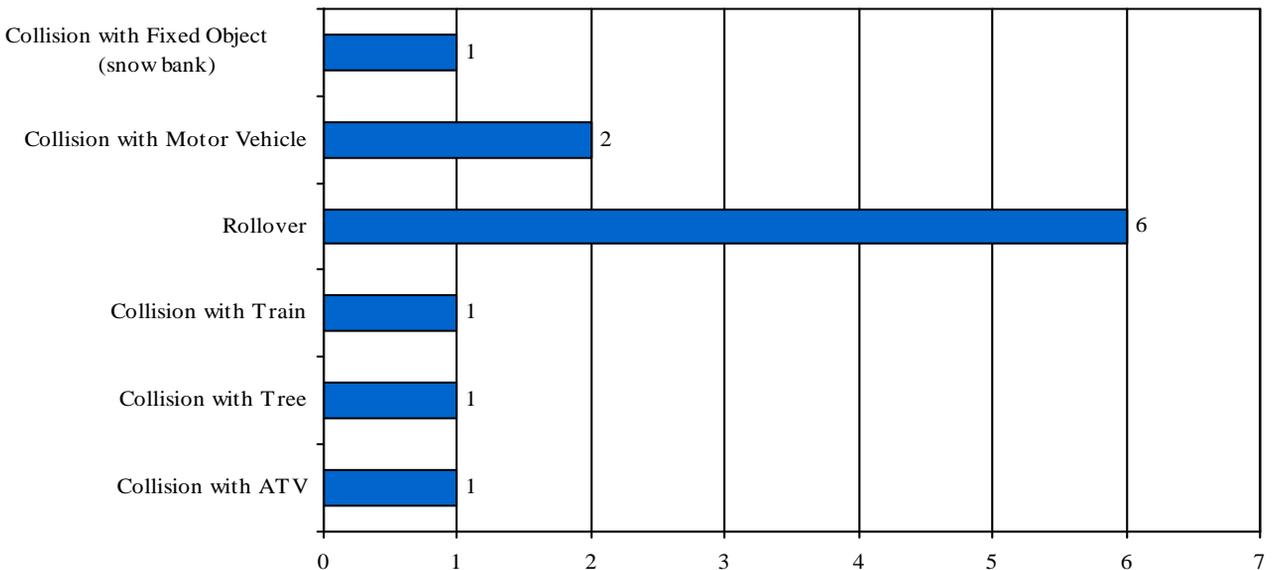
Operators at least age 12 and born after December 31, 1988 are required by law to complete Wisconsin ATV Safety certification or other state equivalent.



# 2008 Fatal ATV Incidents Speed & Location at Time of Incident



# 2008 Fatal ATV Incident Type





## 2008 Citations Issued for ATV Violations

<b>Total Citations</b> (including wardens and sheriff patrols).....	<b>1,343</b>
Operate ATV w/o Registration (V-1) .....	168
Permit ATV Operation w/o Registration (V-2) .....	43
Operate ATV in a Careless Manner (V-3).....	47
Operate ATV While Intoxicated (V-4) .....	37
Operate ATV on Private Property w/o Permission (V-5).....	49
Transport Loaded or Uncased Firearm, or Bow on ATV (V-7) .....	12
Drive or pursue Wild Animal with ATV (V-8) .....	2
Operate ATV within 150' of Dwelling over 10-MPH (V-9) .....	4
Operate ATV over 10-MPH on Ice within 100' of Persons or Shanty (V-10, V-21) ...	9
Illegal Operating of ATV on or Near Highways (V-11).....	416
ATV Equipment Violations (V-12) .....	43
Fail to Report ATV Accident (V-13).....	1
Fail to Stop ATV for Officer (V-14).....	8
Fail to Transfer Registration of ATV (V-15).....	14
Fail to Display or Improper Display of Registration (V-16) .....	66
Fail to Notify DNR with Change of Address (V-17).....	1
Dealer Fail to Collect Fee and Submit Registration Application (V-18).....	2
Operate on a Cemetery, Burial Ground, School, Church w/o Permission (V-19).....	1
Operate at Speed that is Unreasonable or Improper (V-20) .....	32
Owner Permitting Operation by Person Under Age, or Disabled (V-22).....	87
Operate with Alcohol Concentration Above 0.1% (V-23) .....	20
Refuse to Take Intoxicated ATV Test (V-24) .....	11
Miscellaneous (V-27).....	3
Operate/Ride ATV w/o Head Gear (V-28).....	122
Operate ATV on ATV trail without an ATV Trail Pass (V-30).....	26
Operate ATV with detectable amount of controlled substance – first offense (V31) ...	1
Operate ATV without a valid safety certificate or fail to carry certificate on ATV and display upon request (V32) .....	94
Operate, sell, rent, or manufacture ATV exceeding 96 decibel noise limit (V33) .....	23
Fail to display or improper display of non-resident trail pass on ATV (V35).....	1

(These numbers reflect the citations issued and processed through the court system and returned to the Department and entered into the DNR citations database.)

### Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2008

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause of Incident/Fatality	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet & WI Safety Certified
1.	5/22/08	Town of Turtle Lake	Rollover	30	.102	No
	9:00PM	Barron County (Route)	Struck Deer / Head Trauma / Alcohol	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling on a route when a deer ran across the road. The victim hit the deer causing the ATV to roll several times ejecting the victim from the ATV.						
2.	6/10/08	Town of Lac du Flambeau	Rollover	74	.000	No
	4:52PM	Vilas County (Road, not a route)	Speed / Head & Chest Trauma	M	IL	No
The victim was traveling down Hwy 47 towing a large trailer with grass clippings when he lost control of the ATV causing the ATV to roll. The victim came to rest under the ATV and trailer came to rest on top of the ATV.						
3.	6/21/08	Town of Lawrence	Rollover	71	.012	No
	1:24PM	Rusk County (Public Rd./Route)	Struck Dog / Speed / Inattentive Operation / Head Trauma / Alcohol	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling on a route when a dog came onto the roadway. The victim hit the dog then hit the brakes and turned the steering wheel which caused the ATV to flip over.						
4.	7/7/08	Town of Eureka	Rollover	62	NA	No
	4:30PM	Polk County (Public Road)	Speed / Head & Internal Injuries	M	WI	No
It appears that the victim was traveling at a high rate of speed and turned the ATV hard to the left causing the ATV to leave the roadway, ejecting the victim and rolling the ATV. The victim had been in an induced coma due to injuries and was taken off life support on 7/23/08.						

## Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2008

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet & WI Safety Certified
5.	8/3/08	Town of Theresa	Rollover	74	NA	NA
	Unk. AM	Dodge County (Private Property)	Inattentive Operation / Trauma / Impact Injury	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling on a mowed trail on a ridge, left the level portion and encountered a steep incline. Victim rolled over sideways twice.						
6.	8/11/08	Town of Goetz	Ejected	15	NA	Yes
	12:09PM	Chippewa County (Public Road)	Head & Neck Trauma / Speed / Inexperience	F	WI	Yes
The victim was a passenger on an ATV that struck a stopped ATV then accelerated across the road onto the gravel at which time the victim was ejected 35 feet from the ATV.						
7.	8/13/08	Village of Poynette	Rollover	33	.204	No
	4:36AM	Columbia County (Road)	Alcohol / Speed / Operating on Paved Road / Head & Internal Injuries	M	WI	No
From the evidence at the scene, it appears that the victim was going in a clockwise direction in reverse gear at a high speed and rolled the ATV over on top of himself.						
8.	8/16/08	Town of Webb Lake	Collision with Moving Motor vehicle	19	.000	Yes
	10:01AM	Burnett County (Road / Route)	Speed / Limited Visibility / Head Injury	M	MN	Yes
The victim was traveling on a road/route when he collided with a truck heading in the opposite direction. Evidence at the scene suggests that the incident was most likely caused by the speed of the ATV and limited time and or room to initiate evasive maneuvers.						

## Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2008

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause of Incident/Fatality	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet & WI Safety Certified
9.	8/23/08	Town of Knapp	Collision with moving motor vehicle	60	NA	No
	4:10PM	Jackson County (Road, not a route)	Alcohol / Head & Internal Injuries	F	WI	No
<p>The victim was traveling on a dirt road that is not a route and had a head-on collision with a car. Operator of the car was under the influence of alcohol. Operator of the car and his passenger were not injured. The 3 year old passenger of the ATV was injured and taken to the hospital.</p>						
10.	10/4/08	Town of Tripp	Left trail / Collision with trees	47	NA	Yes
	10:50AM	Bayfield County (Route)	Internal Injuries	F	MN	No
<p>The victim was traveling on an ATV route when her right front tire caught the edge of the route and pulled the ATV down into a slight drop off along the route. The ATV hit a small group of trees coming to rest on its side.</p>						
11.	10/8/08	Town of Cylon	Collision with train	31	NA	No
	5:43A	St. Croix County (RR Track)	Illegal Operation on RR Tracks / Weather / Head Injury	M	WI	No
<p>The victim was illegally operating on the railroad tracks when a train traveling in the same direction rear-ended the ATV. The victim was ejected from the ATV. The weather was dark and very foggy.</p>						
12.	12/26/08	Town of Uttica	Collision with snow bank	16	.000	No
	1:55PM	Crawford County (Public Road)	Speed / Trail Conditions / Chest Injuries	M	WI	No
<p>The victim hit a snow bank, causing him to lose control and become pinned under the ATV.</p>						

**WEAR YOUR HELMET**

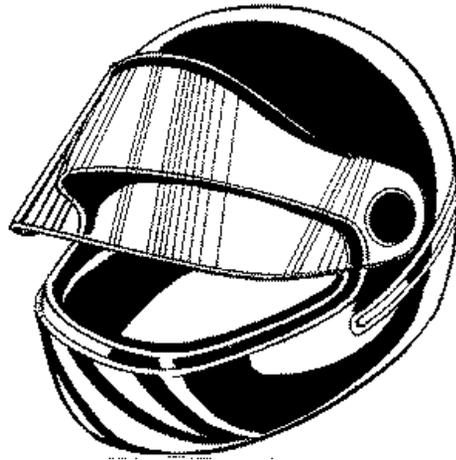
**While you Ride  
Responsibly...  
Under control...**

**&**

**SOBER**

**and you will....**

**Ride for life**



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<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement/safety/atvsaf.htm>



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