

SafeWork SA

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Quad bikes and Side-by-Sides (SXS) Safety

Every year Quad bikes and Side-by-Sides (SXS) take the lives of 15-20 farm workers and are responsible for a further 1,400 serious injuries.

Young people aged between 10 and 24 Years have a much higher risk of injury, especially under 16's when riding adult sized quads.

Most injuries result from rollovers, trapping or crushing the driver underneath. The most common cause of death is due to entrapment and inability to breathe under the weight of an overturned bike (up to 400kg).

Other contributing factors include a lack of training and experience, excessive speed, steep, uneven or unfamiliar ground, carrying a passenger or an unbalanced load, attachments, unsuitable protective clothing, unsafe driving and seatbelts not being worn or overridden.

Stop and Think

Quad bike and SXS operators need to understand how to identify the hazards associated with using quad bikes so they can make informed choices to reduce risks and ensure safe use.

- Make sure operators are trained and competent.
- Always wear an approved helmet, protective gear and buckle up.
- Ensure safety devices are not overridden.
- Be aware of rough terrain, steep slopes, hidden obstacles and machine limitations so you can approach the terrain accordingly.

- Fit rollover protection if there is a risk of overturning to Quad-bikes sold prior to 2021 as per the Consumer Goods (Quad Bikes) Safety Standard 2019.
- Maintain quad bikes and SXS's for safe operation and report any problems.
- Make sure the quad bike or SXS are maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- No kids on quad bikes. Do not let anyone under 16 years old ride an adult sized quad bike.
- Do not allow untrained or inexperienced operators to use quad bikes and SXS's particularly in unfamiliar or high-risk terrain or for unfamiliar tasks.
- Ensure visitors receive adequate training in vehicle characteristics, and safety features before operating quad bikes and SXS's.
- Do not allow passengers on single-user vehicles.
- Do not exceed the cargo rack carrying limits or vehicle load carrying limits specified in the operator manual.
- Ensure passengers do not ride on the rear tray of SXS's.
- When attachments are added (e.g. trailers and rack mounted spray tanks) or dogs are on the vehicle, note how they change weight ratios and drive accordingly.
- Ensure traffic control procedures are in place, including speed restrictions and 'no-go' zone signs posted.
- Read and understand the manufactures safety information once you have purchased a new quad or SXS.