DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

EHS BULLETIN

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ATV AND UTV SAFETY ON CAMPUS

An All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) is a motorized off-road vehicle with a straddle seat and handlebar steering, designed to travel over rough terrain. A Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) is a type of off-road vehicle designed for both utility and recreational purposes. A UTV features side-by-side seating for two to six passengers, a steering wheel, and foot pedals for gas and brakes. These machines can be spotted on agricultural farms and on the main campus for facilities work. It is important to recognize potential hazards associated with these machines, as well as proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and safe driving tips.



REQUIRED PPE

- Helmet (DOT rated).
- Glasses or goggles.
- Long pants.
- Gloves.
- Closed-toe shoes.

HAZARDS AND SAFE DRIVING TIPS

- Potential hazard types include ejection, rollovers, overturning, collisions, and high rates of speed.
- Pay attention when maneuvering over rough terrain such as hidden obstacles, rocks, stumps, ice, loose gravel, sand, mud, and inclines. These terrain types can impact driver control and handling of the machine.
- Always remember to wear proper PPE and never perform stunts or drive at a high rate of speed.
- Always wear a seat belt when riding in a UTV.
- Never allow human passengers to ride in the cargo area of a UTV.
- Never carry passengers on an ATV.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY RESOURCES

Growing Safely - ATV Safety (video)
ATV Safety (video)
K-State ATV training

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, EMAIL EHS@OKSTATE.EDU OR CALL (405) 744-7241.

LABORATORY INCIDENT PREVENTION

Laboratory incidents often stem from small safety gaps rather than dramatic failures. An unlabeled container, incorrect personal protective equipment (PPE), or a skipped hazard review may seem minor, but these issues can quickly lead to serious consequences. Let's look at two common examples and the simple actions that can prevent them.

UNLABELED CHEMICAL CONTAINERS #1

An unlabeled container neither clearly identifies its contents nor communicates the necessary hazard information. A researcher transfers a chemical to a smaller bottle and plans to label it "later." The bottle remains on the bench, and another laboratory worker cannot identify its contents.

Why does this matter? A review of U.S. Poison Center data identified more than 45,000 unintentional exposures involving substances transferred to unlabeled, incorrectly labeled, or other secondary containers. Although not limited to laboratories, the data underscores the importance of clear chemical identification.

Safety lesson: Label secondary containers when transferring chemicals unless the container is only intended for the immediate use of the employee performing the transfer. Never leave an unidentified chemical for someone else to encounter.

THE WRONG PPE #2

Choose PPE based on the task's specific hazards. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 covers PPE selection, and 29 CFR 1910.138 addresses hand protection.

No single glove material protects against all chemicals. Choose gloves based on the chemical, its concentration, the task, expected contact time, and the manufacturer's data on permeation, breakthrough time, and degradation.

Safety lesson: Before use, review the SDS and the glove manufacturer's chemical-resistance information. Glove-selection tools can help you compare materials. If compatibility is unclear, contact EHS before starting the work.

SMALL STEPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Before starting work, confirm you understand the hazards, containers are labeled, PPE is suitable, and procedures can be performed safely. If anything is unclear or seems wrong, stop and resolve it before proceeding. When in doubt, ask before acting.

Trainings Offered

Respiratory Protection Training
1st Tuesday of every month @ 8:30 a.m.
FM North Building, Room 101C
Registration: email- chemicalsafety@okstate.edu

Bloodborne Pathogen Training
2nd Tuesday of every month @ 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
EHS Conference Room, 003 UHS
Registration: email- chemicalsafety@okstate.edu

Fire Safety w/ Hands-On Training
2nd Friday of every month @ 9:00 a.m.
EHS Conference Room, 003 UHS
Registration: email- chemicalsafety@okstate.edu

Monthly Employee Training
3rd Thursday of every month @ 9:30 a.m.
EHS Conference Room, 003 UHS
Registration: email- chemicalsafety@okstate.edu

Laboratory Safety and Hazardous Waste
4th Tuesday of every month @ 8:30 a.m.
EHS Conference Room, 003 UHS
Registration: email- chemicalsafety@okstate.edu

For more information, please see the EHS Laboratory Safety Fact Sheet