All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are an increasingly popular way to travel off-road for work or pleasure. ATV’s are 4 wheeled motorized off road vehicles that are straddled by the driver and steered with handle bars. Although they ride and operate like a motorcycle, the four wheels give them improved stability. Currently, there are more than 10 million in use in the United States. It is important that employers are familiar with the hazards associated with ATVs, and have safety procedures in place to ensure their safe operation.

**ATV’s in the Workplace:**

ATV’s have grown in popularity because their light weight and oversized, low pressure tires allow them to maneuver in difficult terrain where larger vehicles cannot. Although first adopted by ranchers and farmers, they are now used extensively in security and law enforcement, construction and land management, outdoor recreation and sporting venues and emergency rescue and firefighting operations.

The same features that make the ATV’s so useful also result in a high center of gravity, which makes the vehicles prone to roll overs. As of December 31, 2011, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) received reports of 11,688 ATV-related fatalities occurring between 1982 and 2011. In 2011, there were an estimated 107,500 ATV-related, emergency department-treated injuries in the United States.

Employers need to determine if the benefit of ATV use outweighs the risks. If the use of ATV’s is necessary, employers should study the controls outlined in this alert, along with the information provided by online resources listed below, to develop a safety program for ATV use.

The **ATV Safety Program** should include the following elements:

1. ATV Safety Policy
2. Operator Selection, Authorization & Review
3. Operator Orientation & Training
4. Operator Supervision & Discipline
5. ATV Inspection & Maintenance
6. Accident Reporting, Investigation & Analysis