



RAPID LESSONS SHARING

ATV ROLLOVER

Montana DNRC June 2018

Summary of Incident:

On June 12, 2018 an ATV course was provided for two students at the Northeastern Land Office. The course started out with a classroom portion consisting of a PowerPoint presentation by the instructor. As reported by the students:

- The presentation was brief.
- There could have been more presented about hazard identification and risk management
- The focus was mainly on protective equipment and riding techniques in a variety of situations.

Of the two students, rider A was highly experienced, and rider B had limited experience operating an ATV.

During the field portion of the training, rider A took the lead in most of the exercises with rider B following rider A's lead. The second to last skills station consisted of downhill and uphill riding. Rider A road downhill into a coulee bottom and proceeded up and out on a steeper slope on the other side. Rider B followed the same path down into the coulee and started up the other side. Rider B did not obtain sufficient speed when starting up the other side and powered-out half way up. The ATV began to roll backward down the hill and rider B "bailed-off". The ATV went over backwards coming to a rest on its wheels in the bottom of the coulee.

Rider A and the instructor hurried over to rider B to asses him for injuries. Rider B stated that there were no injuries. They checked the ATV over for damage. The handle bar and cluster gage sustained minor damage, as well as scratches along the side of the gas tank cover. The instructor notified the Area Fire Management Officer (AFMO) about the accident, relaying that there were no injuries. The AFMO, Area Manager, and Area Assistant Fire Management Officer (AAFMO) traveled to the sight to evaluate the training sight and ATV. In route to the site the AFMO notified the Eastside Training & Safety Specialist about the accident. After inspecting the ATV, rider B rode it up the hill and loaded it into the back of a pickup. All proper protective equipment was worn during the field portion of the training.

What Was Done Well:

- Instructor and rider A quickly assessed rider B for injuries related to accident.
- Instructor quickly notified AFMO about accident and relayed that no injuries occurred.
- AFMO notified Eastside Training/Safety Specialist in route to accident.
- All proper protective equipment was worn during the field portion of the training.

Lessons Learned by the Participants:

- Hazard identification and risk management needs to be sufficiently discussed with students.
- Students in a class may have variable levels of experience.
- A rider with limited experience may attempt more complex maneuvers when in training with a more experienced rider.
- As we teach fire crews. We should be teaching our non-fire co-workers. That when an individual feels an assignment is unsafe, they also have the obligation to identify, to the degree possible, safe alternatives for completing that assignment. Turning down an assignment is one possible outcome of managing risk.



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Questions to Consider When Conducting or Participating in ATV Training:

- INSTRUCTOR: Have you sufficiently ascertained each student's ATV experience level to ensure that the classroom and field portions of the training set each student up for successful and safe completion of the training?
- INSTRUCTOR: Have you sufficiently gone over hazard identification and risk management in ATV operations to improve your student's situational awareness?
- INSTRUCTOR: When instructing students with less experience, have you thought about erring on the side of caution with maneuvers that could expose the student(s) to more risk than they can manage?
- STUDENT: Do you make decisions based upon your comfort level with the given task and consider alternative routes that may expose you to less risk?
- STUDENT: Do you feel comfortable refusing a task based on your own assessment of your skills and comfort level? Could you work with an instructor to identify an alternative way of completing the task that matches your current skills and comfort?



Figure 1 Busted Speedometer Gauge Cluster Assembly



Figure 2 Scratched gas tank cover from roll over

This RLS submitted by:
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