

ATV & UTV Rollovers on Mine Sites

In recent years, there have been several dangerous incidents involving all-terrain and utility task vehicles (ATVs and UTVs) on mine sites within British Columbia. Both are tools commonly used in mines across BC, both on surface and underground operations.

ATVs and UTVs do not offer the protection of a fully enclosed cab and their narrow wheelbase and higher centre of gravity makes them handle and operate very differently compared to a car or a truck. Improper operation of an ATV or UTV can lead to an incident or roll over resulting in serious injuries or death.



General Considerations

- 1. Training** – All mine site staff must receive training on the safe operation of ATVs and UTVs. It is highly recommended all ATV and UTV operators take a course through a certified instructor. Instruction should include, but is not limited to, driving skills, assessing terrain, choosing the right equipment for the task, ensuring it is in good mechanical condition, and how to use the equipment safely.
- 2. Safety equipment** – Operators of ATVs and UTVs must be provided with, and use, the required safety equipment, including personal protective equipment. Ensure safety equipment is inspected regularly. In addition, all mine sites located on crown land are under the purview of the *Off-road Vehicle Act*, which details the legal requirements for seatbelts, helmets, registration, etc.
- 3. Assessment** – Workers should assess the task, terrain, their ability, and their machine's capability to determine if the task is safe. While designed to perform off-road, both ATVs and UTVs have limitations. Operators must understand the machine's capabilities, such as factors that may affect traction and stability.
- 4. Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS)** – Mine Managers must ensure that UTVs are compliant with the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC and are maintained in good condition. If a machine has been rolled, ensure the ROPS has not been compromised.
- 5. Safe Work Procedures:** All mines are required to have written safe work procedures regarding the use and operation of ATV's and UTV's on the mine site.

Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC (Code)

Mine managers and supervisors are reminded of their responsibility for the well-being of their workers. Implementing health and safety systems and controls, such as the recommendations mentioned above, assists mine managers and supervisors in keeping workers safe. In addition, mine managers are responsible for reviewing the Code and following all sections that apply to operating ATVs and UTVs on a mine site in BC.

ATVs and UTVs are used for a wide variety of tasks in different types of terrain. Consequently, each task may require a different set of controls, and it is up to the machine's operator to determine the safest way to complete their work.