

FATAL ALERT

October 8, 2007

On October 8, 2007 a survey helper was fatally injured when lost control of the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) he was operating and crashed. No one witnessed the accident. At the time of the accident, the employee was operating an ATV along a gas pipeline right of way in an isolated area. The employee, for unknown reasons, was operating the ATV at a speed in which exceeded his abilities and lost control of the vehicle. The ATV overturned, throwing the rider from the vehicle and then was struck by the ATV. The operator was not wearing an approved (DOT, Snell Memorial Foundation, ANSI) helmet at the time of the accident nor was there an approved helmet on-site. The operator sustained a severe closed head injury which resulted in his death.

Significant Factors:

- The rider had an unknown amount of ATV riding experience
- No training had been provided for employees authorized to operate the ATV
- The employer had no policy prohibiting employees who had not been trained from using/operating machinery or equipment
- No personal protective equipment (helmets) was used/worn by the employees operating the ATV

Recommendations:

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Ensure employees are trained on the safe operation of the ATV and understand the equipment capabilities
- Ensure employees understand their personal limitations and capabilities in operating equipment
- Ensure no employee operates equipment in which they have not been appropriately trained on
- Ensure all ATV operators wear all the recommend personal protective equipment