



**Contacts:**

Bonnie Midget, Media Relations  
Primary Children's Hospital  
801-662-6590 (office)  
801-455-9540 (mobile)  
[Bonnie.midget@imail.org](mailto:Bonnie.midget@imail.org)

Lori Buttars, PIO  
Weber-Morgan Health Department  
801-399-7114 (office)  
801-652-5365 (mobile)  
[lbuttars@co.weber.ut.us](mailto:lbuttars@co.weber.ut.us)

**Media Advisory**

July 8, 2015

**Hands-on ATV certification course trains kids to safely operate ATVs**

**What:** Hands-on ATV safety course for kids 8-18 years old

**When:** Saturday, July 11, 8 a.m. – noon

**Where:** Weber County Fairgrounds, 1000 N. 1200 W., Ogden, Utah

**Who:** Division of Natural resources instructor Chris Heller, Primary Children's Hospital Child Advocacy Manager Janet Brooks

**ATV accidents by the numbers**

- Utah has the fourth highest traumatic brain injury (TBI) hospitalization rate in the U.S. for children ages 5-14.
- At least 12% of the TBI admissions and at least 10% of the total trauma admissions at Primary Children's are due to ATV accidents.
- Only 58% of Utahns report wearing a helmet while riding an ATV.
- Of the pediatric ATV traumas seen at Primary Children's over the last three years, less than half of the children were wearing helmets.
- Although it is a Utah law that children between the ages of 8-16 take a certification course to earn a license prior to operating an ATV, only 38% of Utah children whose parents own one have taken a training course.

Primary Children's Hospital has teamed up with Safe Kids and the Weber-Morgan Health Department to offer a special one-day course designed to keep kids safe while riding ATVs.

This ATV class is designed for kids ages 8-18 years and will be taught by an instructor from the Division of Natural Resources.

Participants are asked to bring their own ATVs and to wear protective gear. Instructors will help the students learn to operate the vehicle safely.

"For the past three years Primary Children's Hospital has been providing targeted education for families and adolescents to prevent off-road vehicle injuries," says Janet Brooks, Child Advocacy Manager at Primary Children's. "This class provides a free, hands-on experience that may prevent a lifetime of 'what ifs'."

### **Video and interview opportunities:**

Video: Department of Natural Resources instructors providing education; participants operating vehicles

Interviews

- Chris Haller, Utah Department of Natural Resources Instructor
- Janet Brooks, Child Advocacy Manager, Primary Children's Hospital