

Policy Statement

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Small Motorized Recreational Vehicles

Originally approved April 2019, replacing rescinded policy statements Intoxication and Motorized Recreational Vehicle and Watercraft Operation; and Motorized Recreational Vehicle and Watercraft Safety

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Small Motorized Recreational Vehicles

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The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) supports the development and implementation of programs, policies, legislation, regulations, and public education that will increase the safe use of small motorized recreational vehicles and watercraft.* These measures should emphasize the shared responsibility of owners, operators, passengers, and manufacturers to optimize the safety of riders and bystanders. These measures must include the prohibition of child operators, prevention of alcohol- or drug-impaired operation, required use of safety equipment, mandatory safety training of all operators, and avoidance of operation while drowsy or distracted.

ACEP encourages a multifaceted coordinated effort between recreation enthusiasts; vehicle or watercraft manufacturers; federal, state, and local agencies; and the

medical community to reduce injury and death resulting from the use of motorized recreational vehicles and watercraft. Individuals developing usage recommendations should provide clear guidelines on vehicle- and watercraft-specific required protective equipment; minimum and maximum height, weight, and age restrictions; training requirements for operators; and rescue operation instructions, if applicable. Furthermore, states should establish uniform legislation of speed limits and alcohol and drug standards for safe operation, as well as impoundment of property to ensure public safety.

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*Motorized recreational vehicles and watercraft can include Segways, hoverboards, scooters, mopeds, minibikes, all-terrain vehicles, go-karts, snowmobiles, ultralight aircraft, boats, Jet Skis, and other similar vehicles.