

Toolbox Talks #4.3 – Protecting Bikes & ATVs



ATVs & Motorbikes: Easy to Steal

Outline

If a tractor is the farm work horse, then an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), quad bike, or motorcycle might be seen as the farm dog. Often considered as a versatile utility vehicle used by the farmer to gather or tend to their livestock across vast expanses of land. A compact, nimble, and easy to use machine. We must all understand how to SafeGuard our working dog.

These qualities make an ATV or bikes extremely attractive to a thief intent on committing acquisitive crime; they will steal a bike, quad, or small utility vehicle to sell it on for cash.

Why This Matters:

Bikes and ATVs are light, valuable, and fast to load into the back of a van, making them one of the most stolen items in agriculture. Many disappear within minutes. But small changes in how and where you store them can make a big difference.



Let's Talk About It:

- What do you use the bike or ATV for and what would be the impact if it were stolen?
- How do we protect the bike or ATV when it is not in use?
- How and when would you steal the bike or ATV if you were a criminal?
- What could we do to better protect the bike or ATV?



Quick Wins:

- 01 ● Always remove the ignition key or fob when left unattended.
- 02 ● Store the bike or ATV out of sight, preferably in a locked shed or container, and in the field of view of a surveillance camera.
- 03 ● Use a ground anchor, heavy-duty chain, and closed-shackle padlock when parked overnight.
- 04 ● Register your bike or ATV on the Construction Equipment Security and Registration scheme.
- 05 ● Overtly mark the bike or ATV to make it unique, consider using forensic DNA solution to deter theft.
- 06 ● Install a Thatcham approved covert tracking device to help trace the vehicle if stolen.
- 07 ● Display deterrence signs or stickers to announce the use of DNA substance or trackers.
- 08 ● Include the bike or ATV in the Business Equipment Register and insurance policy - recording the make, model, colour, manufacturer's serial number, and proof of purchase.
- 09 ● Take digital photographs of your bike or ATV and highlight the unique marking to help identify your vehicle; this will help the police return it when found.

What does 'good' look like:

- 01 In use by an authorised and competent operator.
- 02 Parked in a designated place, out of view, behind a locked door.
- 03 Ignition keys removed and tethered to fixed infrastructure.



- 04 Digitally tracked, uniquely marked, observed by a camera when not in use.
- 05 Included in the incident response plan if stolen – police, insurance, replacement, social network, alternate safe vehicle.



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