Introduction

Kubota is delighted that you’ve chosen an RTV 900. Properly maintained your RTV900 will provide you with years of trouble free service.

Accidents can happen even in the best regulated situations and the following facts should be considered before you or anyone else drives the RTV900.

On average, two people die each year in all terrain type vehicle accidents. Non-fatal accidents were estimated to amount to over 1000 serious injuries per year. The underlying causes of these accidents were usually one or more of the following:

- lack of structured training and/or experience;
- incorrect/lack of protective clothing;
- excessive speed;
- carrying a passenger or an unbalanced load;
- tipping on a bank, ditch, rut or bump;
- a steep slope combined with other factors, eg ground or load conditions;
- towing excessive loads with un-braked equipment.

We would ask you to take a few minutes to read this booklet and familiarize yourself with the operating and safety procedures and with the controls of your RTV900. We suggest that you read this booklet in conjunction with your RTV900 operator’s manual.
Before Starting Off

Many accidents are caused by driver complacency and for even the most experienced RTV900 operator, a small lapse can be critical.

Although you’ve probably heard it before, a reminder about being suitably equipped is worthwhile. Although the temptation is to push on and get the job done, often accidents occur when you least expect them.

Wear clothing that is strong and covers your arms and legs. Gloves are useful for protection and to keep hands warm in cold weather for good control of the RTV. Wear sturdy, ankle-covering footwear, eg boots or wellingtons that are strong, supportive and have good wet grip.

Protect your eyes from insects and branches with either a visor or goggles particularly if you do not have a cab or front screen fitted to your RTV.

Always plan out each task beforehand. A few minutes thought will help you avoid hazards and will probably improve your efficiency in the task as well, so it is time well spent.

- Check the water and oil levels of your RTV900 daily, topping up when necessary.
- Before starting your Kubota always have a quick check round the vehicle for any faults.
- Check your tyres for pressure and signs of damage.
- Make sure the control panel has no warning lights showing.
- Only start the engine when it is safe to do so.
- Make certain that the load you are carrying is secure.

Operator Safety

- No loose clothing
- Plan tasks before beginning them.
- Always make sure the parking brake is applied, and the transmission gears are in neutral before starting your RTV.

Make sure you know your Kubota RTV900 before using it. The controls may vary from model to model so familiarize yourself with all operational procedures and controls.

- Control panel: ‘Always check the control panel is clear before setting off’
- Operator seated position: Only ever start the RTV when correctly seated and always use the seatbelt provided.
RTV900 Common Sense

Most accidents can be avoided with just a little forethought.

Before embarking on any tasks, spend a few minutes planning your workload. Not only will it help you operate more efficiently, it is also an opportunity to identify possible hazards, especially if it is territory you are not familiar with.

Rocks, trees stumps and ditches can be easily hidden by undergrowth, water etc. so it often pays to look at the terrain first. Be particularly careful on family farms or in domestic situations. Almost any environment can be viewed as a playground for children, so take special care should you suspect children or animals are in the vicinity.

Always make a careful check around your RTV900 before setting off. Make sure that all warning lights are off and that steering and braking systems are functioning correctly.

Be aware of the prevailing weather conditions. Wet and icy conditions can be hazardous for any vehicle, especially on uneven or hilly ground.

Get in and out of your RTV900 correctly. A fall here can be painful! It has been known for operators to break bones when jumping from a vehicle. Always mount the RTV forwards and exit backwards using appropriate hand holds and step as required.

Time taken keeping the RTV900 clean is always worthwhile. Keep the foot well free of items such as tools and drawbar pins etc which could prevent you operating the controls. Do not allow mud and debris to build up on the floor, a small slip can lead to serious injury.

Driving

Your Health

Diesel fumes are hazardous to health so remember to turn off the engine in a poorly ventilated area.

Look out for others

A busy yard or confined buildings make spotting dangers more difficult. When working in such environments, use the mirrors, the vehicle horn, or reverse warning equipment. The addition of a warning beacon can alert others to your presence.

Safe driving methods

There is no substitute for formal training. Consider taking a course of off-road driver training from a qualified provider.

- Always read the owner’s manual.
- When going uphill, it is important to review the route before starting the climb.
- Avoid sudden increases in speed, as this can cause machine instability.
Driving (cont)

Passengers

A passenger should only be carried in the seating provided, never in the cargo bed. Ensure that they too wear the seat belt at all times.

Special care should be taken when carrying passengers, especially children.

Road use

For road use, RTVs and trailers have to comply with the Road Vehicles Construction and Use Regulations 1986 and the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 (both enforced by the police) and be licensed in the appropriate class. They do not require an MOT and the maximum permitted speed is 20 mph. The minimum age for drivers is 17.

Maintenance and Safety Equipment

RTV900 Safety checks and maintenance

Off-road use is especially harsh on equipment so it is essential to carry out safety checks and maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. In particular, pre operation safety checks should always include:

Tyre pressures

These are 20 psi (1.4ats/bar) Use a gauge that is designed for measuring and displaying low pressures.

Brakes and throttle

Check that the brakes give a safe straight stop and that the throttle operates smoothly in all positions. Brakes can have a relatively short life in farming or forestry environments and need to be checked regularly.

Also remember that contact with diesel fuel should be avoided. When handling diesel always wear protective gloves and if any fuel leaks during refueling, clean the area immediately. Never refuel your RTV900 with the engine running, or whilst smoking.
Maintenance and Safety Equipment

Roll bars, lap straps and weather cabs

- Roll bars are fitted to your RTV for your safety. They should always be fixed in place and in good condition.
- Seat belts are be fitted and should be used at all times.

A safety cab is available for the RTV 900 to provide weather protection and in the event of an overturn, personal protection. Seat belts must still be worn when a cab is fitted.

Should the RTV ever overturn, grip the steering wheel and stay in the seat until the vehicle comes to a halt. Only after the vehicle has come to a halt should you attempt to exit the cab.

Trailer equipment and loads

Ensure all drivers know the manufacturer’s recommended towing capacity and drawbar loading limit. (see operators manual) Always operate within these requirements. Remember that carrying a load or towing a trailer can seriously reduce the stability and maneuverability.

When selecting trailer equipment look for:

- trailer brakes;
- a suitable hitch;
- a low centre of gravity and a wide wheel track;
- attachment points for securing a load.

Check the weight ratio between your RTV and its trailed load. This needs to be assessed for each operation. Loads should be reduced when working on slopes, uneven ground or poor surface conditions. Follow the manufacturer’s advice for your particular machine.

Weight transfer is also important. Stability and resistance to jack-knifing is improved if some load is transferred onto the RTV’s drawbar.

Approximately 10% of the gross weight of the loaded trailer is recommended, but this should not exceed the manufacturer’s drawbar loading limit. Remember that weight transfer can change dramatically when you start going up or down hill.

When loading the RTV, make sure it is within the manufacturer’s approved weight limit. Ensure the majority of the load is carried near the centre of the load bed, that the load is properly secured and that the centre of gravity is kept as low as possible.

Remember that climbing or descending hills or traversing slopes will affect the stability of the vehicle and that any load will further reduce the stability.

Only tow a load from the hitch point. Loads towed from other points could cause sudden movements, resulting in overturning even on slight slopes or with slight acceleration. Ropes or chains should not be used to drag a load where they can become caught on a wheel. This may lead to entanglement with the brake cable, causing unexpected braking.