



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF  
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

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## KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE  
JULY 6, 2009

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office is investigating an injury accident involving an All Terrain Vehicle that occurred this morning at 14900 Twete Road, near Athol, Idaho.

About 11:10 a.m. today, deputies and emergency medical personnel responded to the above address to a report that two young boys, age 10 and 11 had wrecked an ATV on private property and were seriously injured.

When the deputy arrived, he found that Malachi Mort, age 10, of Rathdrum was driving the ATV on the driveway at 14900 Twete Road with his friend, Cohen, age 11 riding with him. Malachi lost control of the machine on the edge of the driveway and struck a power pole. Malachi ended up with a compound fracture of the leg and was transported by ground ambulance to Kootenai Medical Center. Cohen was transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center by Medstar Air Ambulance with head injuries. Neither boy was wearing a helmet.

Cohen's last name is not known at this time. The Sheriff's Department continues to investigate the incident.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger

**UPDATE**  
**JULY 7, 2009 / 0830**

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department has followed up on the A.T.V. accident that occurred yesterday morning at 14900 Twete Road, near Athol, ID.

The driver, Malachi C. Mort, age 10, of Rathdrum, was treated and released at Kootenai Medical Center yesterday. Originally thought to have a compound fracture, he actually only had cuts and bruises. The passenger, Koen D. Valdez, age 11, of Rathdrum is still at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane with head injuries. According to family, he is conscious but still groggy.

The 1999 Honda Fourtrax 300 ATV that they were riding is clearly marked for not being rated for anyone under the age of 16 years of age. Neither boy was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.