

An Analysis of OHV Recalls: Increasing Number of OHVs Pulled from Market due to Safety Concerns

A Consumer Federation of America (CFA) analysis of off highway vehicle (OHV) recalls found that over the past eight years, there have been 72 OHV recalls, and the number of recalls has increased from two recalls in 2010 to 24 recalls in 2017. OHVs include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs), and utility task vehicles (UTVs). CFA's analysis of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) OHV recall reports since 2010 found that the highest number of recalls occurred during the past three years, from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. 2017 has the most recalls of all the years analyzed.

In addition, CFA analysis of CPSC OHV recall reports from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2017 found that 16 brands¹ were involved in the recalls, and the brand with the most recalls was Polaris.² CPSC reports identified at least 61 injuries and two deaths linked to OHVs that were subsequently recalled. Also, more than 880,000³ OHVs were estimated to be sold and subsequently recalled.

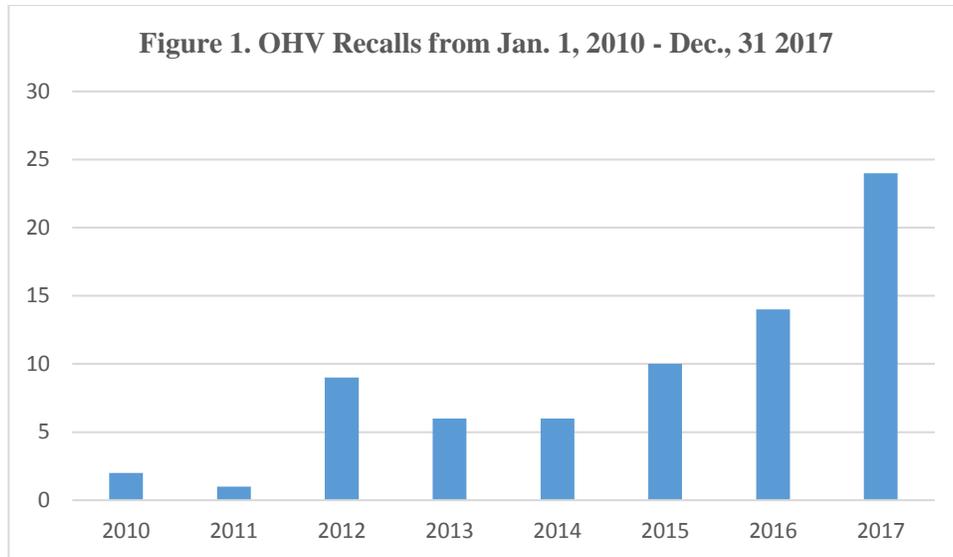
Recall Volume by Brand and Year

From January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2017, a total of 72 recall notices were identified. Sixteen brands were involved in the notices, and the brand that had the most recall notices during the period was Polaris. Figure 1, below, shows the number of OHV recalls during the report period. In 2017, there were a total of 24 recalls—the highest number of recalls in a single year during the period analyzed. In 2016, there were 14 recalls, and in 2015 there were 10 recalls, the second and third highest number of recalls in a single year during the period analyzed. In 2011, there was one recall, but the following year the number of recalls increased to nine, a nine-fold increase, which was the highest increase, between years, for the period analyzed by CFA.

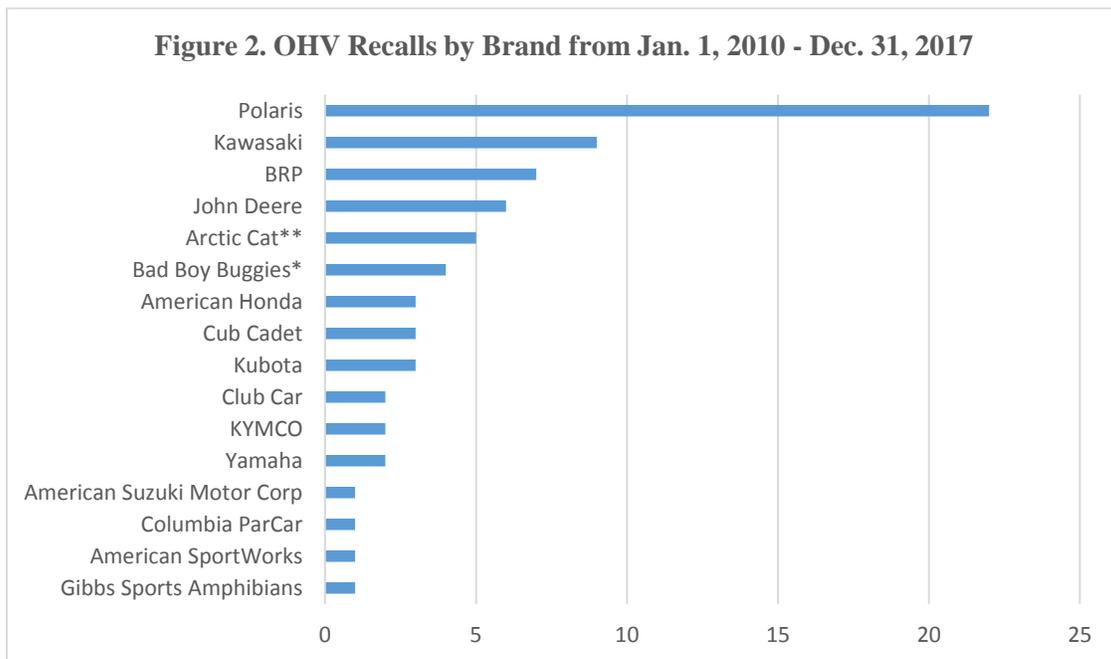
¹ Brand, is used to denote the type of OHV being recalled. While the brand is sometimes synonymous with the manufacturer, it is sometimes the name of an OHV produced by a manufacturer of a different name. In some instances, it is not clear from the recall notice who the manufacturer is.

² A single CPSC recall notice can include a single model or multiple models, as well as a single model year or multiple model years, or any combination of these factors.

³ There were five CPSC recall notices that included golf carts alongside OHVs. The CPSC recall notices did not separate the total units of the OHV products from the golf cart products. Therefore this total includes some units of golf carts.



The OHV recalls involve 16 different brands. Figure 2, below, shows that Polaris had the most recalls, 22, Kawasaki had the second highest number of recalls, nine, while BRP/Can-Am had the third highest, seven.



*Different CPSC recall notices for Bad Boy Buggies differ on who is issuing the recall. On January 2017, Textron issued a recall for Bad Boy Buggies, and it was listed as the manufacturer of Bad Boy Buggies in the CPSC recall notice. On April 2014 and December 2011, Bad Boy Buggies issued two recalls for UTVs alongside E-Z-GO. E-Z-GO issued the two recalls for golf carts. Both Bad Boy Buggies and E-Z-GO are manufactured by Textron, according to the CPSC recall notices. For the purposes of this analysis, the recalls issued under Textron and E-Z-GO for Bad Boy Buggy products are included under the name Bad Boy Buggies.

**Arctic Cat issued three recall notices under the name Arctic Cat on March 2014, July 2015, and August 2016. In October 2017 and November 2017, Arctic Cat issued a recall but under the name Textron. [According](#)

[to Textron's website](#), Textron announced it purchased Arctic Cat in March 2017. For the purposes of this analysis, the Textron recall for Arctic Cat was included under the name Arctic Cat.

Recalls Driven by Fuel, Steering, and Throttle Issues

There are numerous reasons why OHVs have been recalled, and CFA was able to identify some patterns. For example, looking at the entire period, the top three hazards responsible for the recalls were broadly related to fuel, steering, and throttle issues. Of the 72 recalls, fuel-related hazards were associated with the highest number of recalls, 16 (22%). The second most common hazard leading to recalls was related to steering issues, which made up 10 recalls (14%). The third most common hazard was related to throttle issues, which made up 8 recalls (11%). These top three hazards represent nearly half of all hazards that led to recalls (47%).

Examples of fuel-related hazards include the fuel tap leaking, fuel gauge problems, and the fuel filter leaking. Issues related to the throttle include the throttle failing to return to idle and the throttle cable melting. Examples of steering-related hazards include the steering shaft breaking and the electronic power steering unit malfunctioning.

Injuries and Deaths

Injuries and deaths were involved in nearly one-third of the OHV recalls. Out of the 72 recalls analyzed, 21 recalls (29%) involved at least one injury. Tragically, the most serious involved two deaths. [The most recent death occurred in January 2017](#) and involved the rollover of an OHV that was subsequently recalled because it did not have seatbelts, resulting in the death of a 14-year-old passenger. [The second death occurred in April 2016](#) on an OHV that caught fire (the specific part of the vehicle that caught fire was not identified) and then rolled over, resulting in the death of a 15-year-old passenger.

There were 61 injuries included in the recall notices. The CPSC did not always identify the severity of the injuries, but of the 61 injuries included, there were at least two severe injuries. [One individual suffered a serious leg injury](#) after a rollover incident (the vehicle in this incident was part of the same recall as the January 2017 death above). And the second severe injury included [a young child who suffered severe burns](#) after an ROV caught fire (this recall noted that an additional five people suffered burn injuries but did not label them severe).

881,648 Vehicles Subsequently Recalled were Sold

For every recall issued, the CPSC estimates the number of impacted vehicles sold. For the 72 recalls analyzed, the CPSC estimates that 881,648 vehicles subsequently recalled were sold. The recalls that involved the largest number of OHVs were four Polaris recalls and one John Deere recall. The Polaris RZR ROV involved the largest number of vehicles recalled and was recalled two separate times for two different reasons. The most recent RZR [recall of approximately 133,000 vehicles, in April 2016](#), was due to the risk of the vehicle catching fire and involved the largest number of vehicles recalled during the period analyzed. The second Polaris RZR ROV recall, due to a fuel tank-related problem, [occurred in October 2015, and impacted approximately 53,000 vehicles](#). The John Deere Crossover Gator UTV recall impacted [68,300 vehicles in](#)

[December 2017](#) due to steering shaft problems and involved the second highest number of recalls.

The Polaris Ranger 900 ROV was also involved in two separate recalls. An [April 2017 recall impacted approximately 51,000 vehicles](#) from the 2014 model year. The second recall in [September 2016 involved approximately 42,500 vehicles](#) from the 2015 model year. Both recalls for the Polaris Ranger 900 ROV were due to the heat shield falling off.

Investigation into Cause of Increasing Recalls Needed

OHVs are powerful vehicles that can pose safety risks to OHV drivers and passengers even during seemingly low risk conditions. But when drivers are unwittingly using defective OHVs, the safety risk increases even more. More defective vehicles being used means more potential injuries and deaths.

OHV companies must do everything necessary to ensure the safety of their products. While we applaud companies for taking responsibility and recalling their products, problems should be identified before the products enter the marketplace and pose risks to consumers. This analysis identified that more OHV recalls have been occurring more recently. These recalled OHVs have been involved in incidents resulting in at least two deaths and 61 injuries. The CPSC must investigate why the number of OHV recalls are increasing. We urge the CPSC to carefully review the industry- wide incidents and recalls, evaluate the effectiveness of the ATV and ROV standards to address these safety problems, and, along with OHV manufacturers, work to prevent these tragedies and improve the safety of these vehicles.

Appendix: Links to CPSC OHV Recall Reports

From January 1, 2010 through December, 2017

Recall Date	Brand	Link
12/21/2017	John Deere	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/John-Deere-Recalls-Crossover-Gator-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Crash-Hazard-Recall-Alert
12/21/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Polaris-Recalls-RZR-XP-4-Turbo-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard-Recall-Alert
11/30/2017	Kubota	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Kubota-Recalls-RTV-X-Series-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Injury-Hazard-Recall-Alert
11/16/2017	Arctic Cat	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Arctic-Cat-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Recalled-by-Textron-Specialized-Vehicles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard
10/30/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Polaris-Recalls-General-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
10/27/2017	Arctic Cat	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Arctic-Cat-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Recalled-by-Textron-Specialized-Vehicles
10/17/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Polaris-Recalls-ACE-325-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
9/6/2017	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Kawasaki-Recalls-Brute-Force-300-All-Terrain-Vehicles
8/22/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Polaris-Recalls-GENERAL-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Recall-Alert
8/10/2017	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Kawasaki-Recalls-All-Terrain-Vehicles
8/8/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Polaris-Recalls-Scrambler-All-Terrain-Vehicles
7/25/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Polaris-Recalls-RZR-170-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles#
7/19/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Polaris-Recalls-Sportsman-570-All-Terrain-Vehicles
7/18/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/polaris-recalls-rzr-570-and-rzr-s-570-recreational-off-highway-vehicles-recall-alert
7/6/2017	Cub Cadet	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/cub-cadet-recalls-utility-vehicles-recall-alert
6/20/2017	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/kawasaki-recalls-utility-vehicles-recreational-off-highway-vehicles-and-all-terrain
5/9/2017	American Honda	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/recreational-off-highway-vehicles-recalled-by-american-honda-recall-alert
4/13/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/polaris-recalls-ranger-900-recreational-off-highway-vehicles
4/13/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/polaris-recalls-sportsman-all-terrain-vehicles-recall-alert
4/11/2017	John Deere	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/john-deere-recalls-gator-utility-vehicles-recall-alert#
3/21/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/polaris-recalls-sportsman-850-and-1000-all-terrain-vehicles
3/2/2017	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/polaris-recalls-rzr-and-general-recreational-off-highway-vehicles

1/12/2017	BRP	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/brp-recalls-side-by-side-off-road-vehicles
1/11/2017	Bad Boy Buggies	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/textron-specialized-vehicles-recalls-bad-boy-off-road-utility-vehicles
12/29/2016	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Polaris-Recalls-Sportsman-570-All-Terrain-Vehicles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard
11/22/2016	BRP	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls?search_api_views_fulltext=brp&field_rc_date%5Bdate%5D=&field_rc_date_1%5Bdate%5D=
9/15/2016	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Polaris-Recalls-Ranger-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
9/1/2016	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Polaris-Recalls-RZR-XP-Turbo-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
8/23/2016	Arctic Cat	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Arctic-Cat-Recalls-Side-by-Side-Utility-Vehicles
7/28/2016	John Deere	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/John-Deere-Recalls-High-Performance-Gator-Utility-Vehicles
7/7/2016	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Kawasaki-USA-Recalls-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
5/12/2016	Kubota	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Kubota-Recalls-Utility-Vehicles#
5/10/2016	American Honda	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/American-Honda-Recalls-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
5/5/2016	BRP	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/BRP-Recalls-Side-By-Side-Off-Road-Vehicles
4/29/2016	Cub Cadet	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Cub-Cadet-Recalls-Challenger-Off-Road-Utility-Vehicles#
4/19/2016	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Polaris-Recalls-RZR-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Due
4/13/2016	Yamaha	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Yamaha-Recalls-Utility-Vehicles
3/9/2016	KYMCO	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/KYMCO-Recalls-Utility-Vehicles
12/15/2015	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Kawasaki-Expands-Recall-of-Teryx-and-Teryx4-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
12/10/2015	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Polaris-Recalls-RZR-XP-Turbo-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Recall-Alert
10/7/2015	BRP	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/BRP-Recalls-Youth-All-Terrain-Vehicles
10/6/2015	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/Polaris-Recalls-RZR-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-2016
8/13/2015	American SportWorks	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2015/American-SportWorks-Recalls-Four-Wheel-Off-Road-Utility-Vehicles
7/28/2015	Arctic Cat	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2015/Arctic-Cat-Recalls-Off-Highway-Utility-Vehicles
7/23/2015	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2015/Polaris-Recalls-Youth-RZR-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
5/26/2015	BRP	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2015/BRP-Recalls-Youth-Model-Can-Am-All-Terrain-Vehicles
4/14/2015	Yamaha	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2015/Yamaha-Recalls-Viking-VI-Side-x-Side-Vehicles

2/3/2015	Gibbs Sports Amphibians	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2015/Gibbs-Sports-Amphibians-Recalls-Quadski-Amphibious-Vehicles
10/16/2014	American Honda	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2015/American-Honda-Recalls-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
9/25/2014	Bad Boy Buggies	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2014/Bad-Boy-Buggies-Recalls-Recreational-Off-Road-Vehicles#
7/30/2014	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2014/Kawasaki-Recalls-Teryx4-Recreational-Off-highway-Vehicles
4/22/2014	Bad Boy Buggies	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2014/E-Z-GO-Recalls-Golf-Shuttle-Off-Road-Utility-Vehicles
3/18/2014	Arctic Cat	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2014/Arctic-Cat-Recalls-Off-Highway-Utility-Vehicles
2/25/2014	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2014/Polaris-Recalls-Ranger-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles
6/19/2013	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/Polaris-Recalls-Ranger-Off-Highway-Vehicles
2/24/2013	John Deere	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/John-Deere-Recalls-Gator-Utility-Vehicles
1/29/2013	BRP	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/BRP-Recalls-Can-Am-Side-By-Side-Vehicles
1/20/2013	John Deere	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/John-Deere-Recalls-Gator-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard
1/20/2013	BRP	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/BRP-Recalls-Can-Am-Side-By-Side-Vehicles-Due-to-Loss-of-Steering-Control-Hazard
1/9/2013	Polaris	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/Polaris-Recalls-Ranger-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Due-to-Loss-of-Control-and-Crash-Hazard
11/15/2012	John Deere	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/John-Deere-Recalls-Utility-Vehicles-Powered-by-Kawasaki-Engines-Due-to-Fire-Hazard
10/2/2012	Kubota	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/Kubota-Recalls-Off-Road-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Carbon-Monoxide-Hazard
9/19/2012	Club Car	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/Club-Car-Recalls-Golf-Cars-and-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Fuel-Leak-and-Fire-Hazard
8/22/2012	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/Kawasaki-Recalls-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Due-to-Injury-Death-Hazard
4/26/2012	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/Kawasaki-USA-Recalls-Recreational-Off-Highway-Vehicles-Due-to-Injury-Death-Hazard
4/10/2012	Club Car	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/Club-Car-Recalls-Utility-and-Transport-Vehicles-Due-to-Crash-Hazard
3/15/2012	Kawasaki	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/Kawasaki-USA-Recalls-Utility-Vehicles-due-to-Fire-Hazard
1/26/2012	KYMCO	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/KYMCO-Recalls-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard
1/26/2012	Columbia ParCar	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/Columbia-ParCar-Recalls-for-Repair-Golf-Service-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Crash-Hazard
12/14/2011	Bad Boy Buggies	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/E-Z-GO-Recalls-Golf-Cars-Shuttles-and-Off-Road-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Crash-Hazard
11/23/2010	Cub Cadet	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2011/Cub-Cadet-Recalls-Utility-Vehicles-Due-to-Risk-of-Loss-of-Control

American Suzuki 7/8/2010	Motor Corp	https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2010/All-Terrain-Vehicles-Recalled-by-American-Suzuki-Motor-Corp-Due-to-Loss-of-Control-Hazard
--------------------------------	------------	---