

December Snowmobile Safety



Environment:

- Do not chase or harass wildlife; fatigue or exhaustion of the animal can lead to death.
- Avoid areas posted for the protection or feeding of wildlife.
- When enjoying the nature around you or watching wildlife, it is safer to pull off to the side of the trail and stop. This way you won't get distracted while driving and you can truly appreciate the scenery.



Driving:

- Only children older than 16 should drive a snowmobile.
 - Children under 6 years of age should never ride as a passenger.
 - Always inspect your snowmobile before riding it.
 - Check to make sure the kill switch is working properly, and don't be afraid to use it when you need to.
 - Children should always have adult supervision when riding.
 - Never go faster than the safe speed of your machine and never drive faster than what the snow conditions allow you to do safely.
 - Stick to trails or paths, and don't ride on roads.
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- Many winter recreational injuries are due to winter sports, with the most severe accidents usually from snowmobiles due to crashes, roll overs, and plunging into lakes.
 - Pay attention to warning signs while riding in the back country, these will alert you of potential avalanche areas. If you are caught in an avalanche try to get to the side of it. Grab a tree as an anchor if you cannot get to the side.
 - Never go alone, and always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
 - Do not operate a snowmobile in less than 100 mm of snow.
 - Always wear an approved helmet that fits you.
 - To protect your eyes from snow blindness, wear goggles with the appropriate lens color for the right weather. Wear gray or dark green lenses for bright days, and yellow or amber lenses for dark days or late afternoon.
 - Make sure you dress in layers and appropriately for the weather conditions.
 - Do not wear a long scarf or loose fitting clothes since it could get caught in moving parts.
 - Snowmobiles come with many safety features built in such as guards, consoles, reflective materials and warning labels. Make sure these are attached to your machine and remain that way.
 - Do not follow too closely behind another snowmobile. Leave a good distance between you and them in case they stop abruptly.

Activities

Short Activity:

- Go around the room and ask everyone individually to state one thing they should remember about snowmobiles that will help keep them safe when they go out riding.
- Play a game or two of telephone with the sentence being related to snowmobile safety.



Longer Activities or Safety Camp:

- Break into teams and have a relay race to see which team can dress up a specific person the fastest in the appropriate clothing to go snowmobile riding in.
- Break into small groups and give each group a snowmobile safety lesson to teach everyone else. They can do skits, songs, or any other interactive activity to present their lesson.
- Club education display on the topic. The members will be learning as they work with each other to put it together.

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