

Snowmobile Safety

ENFORCING SAFE SLEDDING

Law enforcement plays an important role in the safety of all Albertans who enjoy outdoor activities. Here are a few things you should know about the law and snowmobiling.

Ride with care and caution.

- Riders found guilty of operating a snowmobile without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons or property (Section 120 (2)(a) of the Traffic Safety Act) can be fined \$402.

Don't mix alcohol and snowmobiling – ZERO TOLERANCE!

- In Alberta, a snowmobile driver can be charged with the same impaired driving charges as a driver of a motor vehicle for blowing over 0.08mg, and could face license suspension.
- "Zero Tolerance" is the only way to ride safely.
- Snowmobile collisions involving alcohol are often fatal.
- Mixing alcohol and night driving can be a deadly nightcap.
- It's a criminal charge under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Stay off the road.

- A snowmobiler is prohibited from riding on any portion of a highway (Section 120 (2)(b) of the Traffic Safety Act).

Exceptions to this law.

- Be careful when crossing roads of any kind. Come to a complete stop and make absolutely sure no traffic is approaching from any direction. Then cross at a right angle to traffic. Cross by the most direct, shortest and safest route available. If the shortest route across a highway is not the safest, then cross with care and caution by the safest and most direct route available.
(Note: Persons under the age of 14 are not permitted to drive on a highway as per Off Highway Vehicle Regulation Prohibition Section 2(1).
- Snowmobilers may ride in ditches alongside highways for a specified amount of time during daylight hours only with special permission granted from the provincial government for a special event, or special permission (bylaw) from the municipal government.

Mufflers are a must.

- No rider can operate a snowmobile without a muffler. It is illegal to ride if your muffler has:
 - been cut off or disconnected.
 - the baffle plate removed.
 - an attachment or device that increases the noise.
(Section 8 of the Off-Highway Vehicle Regulation).
- All “after market mufflers” that increase noise are illegal.

Deal with collisions responsibly.

- Whenever you come across a snowmobile collision, you should give your assistance.
- If you are involved in a collision, you must produce your name, address, registration, insurance and any other information requested by an enforcement officer.
- If there has been an injury, death or property damage of \$1,000 or more, the rider must report to the police station in that area and make a written report just as you would in the event of a motor vehicle collision (Section 126 of the Traffic Safety Act).

**Enforcing snowmobile safety starts with you.
Know the rules before you make tracks.**

If you have any suggestions on traffic safety issues that are of interest to you and your community, or for more information, please contact:

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