

snowmobile

INJURY PREVENTION

WHO'S AT RISK?

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reported 17 fatal incidents in the 2010-11 season: 76 percent of the incidents were alcohol involved; 71 percent of the incidents involved speed; 53 percent of the incidents occurred during the hours of darkness.

INJURY PREVENTION

- Always wear a helmet! Head injuries remain the leading cause of death and serious injury arising largely from snowmobiles colliding, falling, or overturning during operation.
- Avoid the use of alcohol and other drugs before or during the operation of a snowmobile.
- Control speed according to conditions. Travel at safe speeds, especially on unfamiliar or rugged terrain where hazards, such as difficult-to-see barb wire, may be encountered. Be alert for obstacles such as rocks, trees, fences and ditches.
- Use extra caution while traveling at night. Do not drive faster than your headlights allow you to see. Wisconsin has a nighttime speed limit of fifty-five miles per hour. The limit applies to all areas statewide from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.
- Avoid waterways. Frozen lakes and rivers can be fatal. It is almost impossible to judge adequate ice coverage or depth.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children younger than 16 should not operate snowmobiles. Furthermore, children younger than 6 years do not have the strength or stamina to be transported safely as passengers on snowmobiles.
- Wisconsin regulations state that any person who is at least 12 years old and who is born after December 31, 1984 is required to possess a valid snowmobile safety certificate in order to operate a snowmobile on public trails, lands or frozen waters. Contact the nearest DNR service center to enroll in a course.
- Learn the snowmobile traffic laws and regulations for the area. Wisconsin regulations are available at: www.dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/DOCS/snowmobile_regs.pdf
- Snowmobiles should never be used to tow persons on a tube, tire, sled, skis, or saucer. They can flip, strike an object or be hit by another vehicle causing serious injury.
- Drive only on established and marked trails or in specified areas.
- Never drive your snowmobile alone or on unfamiliar ground. Have someone ride along so you can help each other in case of a breakdown or crash.
- Be sure the snowmobile is properly maintained and in good operating condition.
- Slow down at the top of a hill. A cliff, snowbank, or other unknown hazard could be on the other side.



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