

Remember

Don't panic if you are lost. Stay together and conserve your energy, and emergency food rations, melt snow to quench your thirst. Make a shelter and build a fire to keep warm which will also signal your location.



Protect the Environment

Minimize the impact of snowmobiling on the environment by following these important guidelines:

- Keep your machine properly tuned. Mix oil in correct ratios according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Ensure the muffler system remains effective;
- Avoid contact with shrubs and bare ground. Do not allow the track to dig into the snow due to unnecessary rapid acceleration. Light treading is good sledding;
- Respect wildlife;
- Do not throw or deposit on or beside any highway, roadway or trail, any glass, bottle, tin or any other waste or refuse liable to injure a human being or animal or damage a vehicle or spoil the environment.

Finally:

- Be aware of wire fences;
- Ensure that any children travelling with you are wearing protective clothing and an approved safety helmet;
- Drive at the appropriate speed for the conditions;
- Carry a First Aid Kit;
- Ride safe, ride sober.

Many accidents occur during the unloading and loading of machines.

Enjoy snowmobiling and winter fun in Prince Edward Island!

For further information, contact the Department of Transportation and Public Works, Highway Safety Operations.

This is a summary; exact wording may be found in the Off-Highway Vehicle Act, and the Regulations made thereunder.

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Safety and Regulations



in
Prince Edward Island

Safe Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is gaining popularity across Prince Edward Island and while public awareness with respect to “safe snowmobiling” ranges from fair to good, the number of preventable collisions and fatalities continue.

Snowmobile fatalities fall into four common categories:

- (a) drowning,
- (b) collision with fixed objects,
- (c) collision with motor vehicles, and
- (d) exposure to cold.

It is clear the sport requires careful and responsible operation of snowmobiles and common sense.

The operator should read the owner’s manual carefully before starting the machine, and learn about the snowmobile’s safety features. Maintenance is extremely important to safe operating. If you are a beginner, don’t attempt difficult movement; learn the basics first.

Knowing the laws that govern operation of snowmobiles is a must for the safety of you and others. Show courtesy and respect for other people and their property, and obtain permission before snowmobiling on private lands.

Some Snowmobile Regulations:

In Prince Edward Island snowmobiles are regulated by the *Off-Highway Vehicle Act*. Under this Act and Regulations; the following rules apply:

- No person who is the owner or operator of an off-highway vehicle may operate or permit any other person to operate the vehicle without a certificate of registration.
- All snowmobiles **must be registered annually**.
- No person may possess, except on the property of the owner, the vehicle without a certificate of registration.
- To operate an off-highway vehicle on a trail leased from the government or any other person by any snowmobile association or club, you must first obtain a permit from that association or club authorizing the operation of the vehicle on that trail.
- The Minister of Transportation and Public Works may designate any authorized officer of a snowmobile club to be an auxiliary peace officer to enforce the requirements of the *Off-Highway Vehicle Act* and Regulations.
- Snowmobiles may **not** be driven on a road except for crossing the road at right angles.
- Operators of off-highway vehicles must have a valid driver’s license to cross any road or highway.

- Children between age 10 and 14 who drive a snowmobile must be directly supervised by an adult who holds a valid driver’s license.
- A safety helmet must be worn at all times by the operator and passengers.
- There is a speed limit of 8 kilometers per hour when operating in or near residential areas or close to other people.
- Every operator of an off-highway vehicle shall
 - obey the traffic signals;
 - obey the order or signals of a peace officer; and
 - produce their driver’s license and snowmobile registration permit when required to do so by any peace officer.
- When operating a snowmobile in a ditch between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the snowmobile must be driven only in the same direction as the normal flow of the vehicular traffic on that side of the centre line of the highway.
- No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle:
 - while their ability is impaired by alcohol or a drug;
 - on any land without the expressed permission of the owner of that land;
 - at excessive speed or in a manner which might endanger the safety of persons or property;
 - no owner shall knowingly permit the operation of an off-highway vehicle unless all lamps and equipment with which the off-highway vehicle is equipped by the manufacturer is in good working order.

Clothing

Wear clothing that is thick and dress in layers. Assure the outside clothing is wind and waterproof. Clothing should be comfortable and not too tight as to restrict movement. Gloves should be insulated and allow free operation of the machine controls. Safeguard yourself; use goggles. Amber lenses provide protection from sun glare and are useful on dark days and in the afternoon. Never wear anything that is loose; clothing or scarves could be caught in the machine, causing damage or serious injury or death.

Safety Tips

- Never refuel when the engine is running. Use a “dip stick” to check the fuel level. Fumes from batteries are as explosive as those from gasoline when exposed to a flame.
- Avoid lakes and rivers. Never yield to the temptation of “testing” ice with your snowmobile. There is no guarantee ice of any thickness will support a snowmobile.
- Use the “buddy system”. If you travel alone, you could

find yourself farther than walking distance when trouble occurs. Always let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to return.

- If stuck, never pull up the back of the machine. Turn off the engine, free the skis by pulling them up and ahead. Put your weight toward the rear of the machine and rock slowly while accelerating slowly and with even throttle pressure.
- Never put your feet on the running board support bars.
- The same principles apply for following as those in a vehicle; leave stopping room, don’t tailgate.
- When in wooded areas, watch for stumps, rocks, and hidden branches. Other hazards may be present. **Be alert.**
- When carrying passengers, start and stop smoothly. Warn your passengers of dangers that you may encounter.
- Always take the ignition key with you when you park your snowmobile. Leaving a key in your snowmobile will be a temptation for youngsters and an open invitation to thieves.
- Before each and every start, check the throttle prior to turning on the ignition key. Be sure it moves freely without sticking. Never “point” your machine toward people when starting.
- Before riding, check your fuel and battery, your ski assemblies and rods, and your variable speed drive belt, as well as general mechanical conditions. Turn handlebars both ways. Check the weather forecast, your clothes and the wind chill factor. Check your brakes, head and tail lights and the emergency switch. Run the machine slowly for 30 seconds.
- Be sure to carry spare spark plugs, drive belt, fuel, emergency food rations, first aid, tool kits, knife, flashlight, flares, waterproof matches, spare clothing, and extra ignition key, your owner’s manual and a map.
- Never let children snowmobile alone. You are the best judge of your child’s capability to understand and control a snowmobile. Emphasize the importance of the careful and responsible use of a snowmobile.