

# Snowmobile Safety Tips



## When You Ride the Trail, Put Safety First!

### Know the law.

Check with the local DNR, law enforcement agencies, dealers and clubs to make sure you follow all the rules in the area where you are riding.

### Gear up.

For optimum protection, always wear protective gear such as a safety-certified helmet, warm gloves, a windproof outer layer and boots.

### Think ahead.

Always carry your owner's manual, an extra belt, extra spark plugs, a tow rope, a small tool kit, spare parts, a flashlight, a first-aid kit and a few survival items such as a space blanket, waterproof matches and a compass.

### Tread lightly.

Respect nature and ride only in areas where it's permitted. Wait for enough snow to cover vegetation so you don't destroy it, avoid running over trees and shrubs and don't disturb wildlife around you. For more information, visit [TreadLightly.org](http://TreadLightly.org).

### Maintain control and stay sharp.

Keep your speed right for the conditions and your experience. Be aware of current terrain, visibility and weather conditions, potential hazards or obstacles. Ride only when your senses are sharp. Never do drugs or drink and then ride.

### Check it out.

Be sure your snowmobile is running properly before riding. Review your owner's manual. Follow the recommended service schedule and be sure an authorized service provider makes all repairs.

### Take a friend.

Don't snowmobile alone. It's more fun – and safer – to ride with a friend along.

### Take care crossing roads.

When crossing roads, make sure you stop completely and that no traffic is approaching from any direction. Remember basic hand signals when you are turning.

### Slow down at night.

At night your visibility is limited to the distance of your headlight. The slower you go, the more room you have to stop. Also, avoid riding along road shoulders at night where your headlight, and those of street traffic, could cause confusion.

### Beware of water.

Drowning is a leading cause of snowmobile fatalities. Never cross over a frozen lake, pond or stream. You run the risk of breaking through the ice, and starting, stopping and turning are more difficult due to less traction.

### Know you're protected.

Be sure you have proper insurance coverage to protect your vehicle and provide liability coverage in case someone gets injured or property is damaged during the use of your machine.

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