

# Snowmobile Safety Tips

Provided by the Oregon State Snowmobile Association

## Never ride alone (it could be deadly)

- You could get stuck, breakdown, or get lost.
- You could have snowmobile roll over and pin you down.

## New rider instruction

- Squeeze throttle slowly until you get used to the power.
- Hold tight, but do not have a death grip on handlebars. Allow handlebars to move slightly (usually an inch) from side to side.
- Do not follow too close.
- Do not cut blind corners.
- Stay on main trails. Tree stumps and rocks can be hidden under the snow off trail.

## Alcohol and drugs (even prescription or over the counter)

- Impairs ability to react and think

## Carrying passengers

- Most snowmobiles are not designed for carrying two passengers
- 2-Up snowmobiles are safest for two people
- Hazards of having a person sit in front of you on a non 2-Up
  - Hit head on handlebar, dash, or windshield on fast stop
  - They can accidentally grab the throttle
  - Sharp right turn will force front passenger into throttle
  - Reduce right turn will force front passenger into throttle
  - Reduce ability to handle the snowmobile safely

## GPS Maps

- Free GPS maps for your mobile device are available at <http://oregonsnow.org/clubs/>

## Follow the leader

- Leader should never disappear, even if followers know where the leader is going
- Leader should slow down at corners so that everyone takes corners at a safe speed (especially important if leading beginners)

## Obey the laws to preserve our ride to ride

- 5 MPH in the Sno-Park
- Reduce excessive noise around Sno-Park and non-snowmobilers
- Slow down and stop if necessary when approaching sled dogs
- Slow down when passing skiers and pedestrians
- Avoid accidents, do not follow too close
- Respect the environment. You can be fined for destroying trees.

## Protecting the snowmobile

- Overheating is the #1 cause for expensive repairs. Rental agencies will charge you for repairs related to overheating.
- Watch temperature gauge and use ice scratchers when needed.
- Going too slow for too long (less than 10 MPH) can cause overheating on almost any snowmobile.

## Safety

- It is easier than you think to become dehydrated. Carry water and a protein bar.

## What to do when stuck

- Avoid gunning the engine as you will become more stuck
- Tip sled on its side and pack snow under. When all else fails, get out shovel.

## Clothing

- Avoid scarves or loose clothing that could get caught on snowmobile.
- Dress in layers. Cotton will stay wet and is dangerous in extreme conditions.
- Two or three thin layers will keep you warmer than one thick piece of clothing
- Thick gloves are great for skiing but bad for snowmobiling. Thick gloves prevent the head from heated handlebars from warming your hands and reduce your ability to hold the handlebars and work the brake and throttle.

For additional safety information go to <http://www.snowmobileinfo.org/>