

Snowmobiling can be a fun and exiting adventure in Wisconsin during the winter months. Along with this fun and excitement, is responsibility.

There are many laws that govern the operation of snowmobiles.

For example, It is illegal to operate a snowmobile under the influence of alcohol or drugs while on any property that is held open to the public (generally this means—trails, routes lakes/rivers or corridors). Wisconsin's maximum blood alcohol concentration limit is 0.08% and the limit is strictly enforced. However, a person can be under the influence of alcohol and in violation at lesser concentrations. Avoid alcohol altogether while riding. You are required to provide a sample of your breath or blood if an officer has probable cause to believe you are operating a snowmobile under the influence. By operating a snowmobile on areas open to the public you have automatically consented to provide a sample of your breath, blood or urine to an officer who requests the test. If you refuse to provide a breath, blood or urine sample, you will be charged with an additional violation.

Each year, injury accidents and fatal crashes are caused by riding a snowmobile and consuming alcoholic beverages. Alcohol slows your reaction time and distorts your judgment. There are also distance, hours and speed Restrictions when operating snowmobiles.

In addition, you can't operate a snowmobile in a careless manner so that it endangers a person or property.

It is against the law to operate a snowmobile on a person's private property without their consent or the lessee's consent. Failure to post the property does not give you the authority to ride there. One of the most common trespass violations is cutting trail corners when the trail crosses private property.

Remember, stay on the trail and do not create shortcuts. You must obey all regulatory signs such as; stop signs, yield signs and speed limit signs. Under rare circumstances when you are permitted on a roadway, you must comply with all posted roadway speed limits.

If you are involved in a crash/accident while snowmobiling, the first thing to do is ensure you are okay and not going to be involved in another crash from a following snowmobile. You must provide help to anyone else who was involved unless you are physically incapable of doing so. Give your name and address to the other snowmobiler(s) or party whose property was damaged. Any crash that results in an injury requiring treatment by a physician or a fatal incident must be reported as soon as possible to a Conservation Warden or other law enforcement officer. You must file a written report of the incident within 10 days to the DNR. You can contact your nearest DNR Service Center, police department or sheriff's office for the accident form.

We have provided just a few regulations that apply to snowmobiles. Below the Evansville ordinance, and several very good websites courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural resources, that contain important information on safe, responsible snowmobiling.

The Evansville Ordinance:

**Sec. 122-262. Restrictions on operation.**

No person shall operate a snowmobile within the city as follows:

(1) *Operation on street or right-of-way.* Upon or across any highway, street, sidewalk, or alley, or the area between the sidewalk and curblines where a sidewalk exists, or the public right-of-

way adjoining and adjacent to any street where there is no sidewalk, other than to drive directly across such highway, street, sidewalk, alley, or public right-of-way, and then only after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to all pedestrians and vehicles.

(2) *Operation in parks.* Upon or across Leota Park, Leonard Park, Lake Leota, or any part of the city park system without the consent of the park board or its duly authorized agent.

(3) *Operation on other public property.* Upon or across any public property without the consent of the city council or governing board of the agency owning the public property.

(4) *Hours.* Except as provided in this article, between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

(Code 1986, § 7.07(3))

## **Sec. 122-263. Snowmobile routes.**

(a) *Approval.* Persons desiring approval of designated snowmobile routes shall apply for such designation to the public safety committee, or to the authorized representative of the public safety committee. Such application shall include a route map showing the route of such proposed way and satisfactory proof that the owners of all land upon which such way is to be laid out have consented thereto.

(b) *Marking.* Approval of a snowmobile way shall be contingent upon such way being marked in substantial conformity with the requirements of Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 50.10, and upon the continued maintenance of such markings.

(c) *Routes designated.* The following streets or portions thereof are designated as snowmobile routes:

(1) *Cemetery Road.* Beginning at a point where the south boundary of Outlot 24, Assessors Plat, Sheet No. 5, City of Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin, intersects the west boundary of Cemetery Road, continuing thence west along the south boundary line such Outlot 24 extended to a point where such line intersects the east boundary of Cemetery Road, thence north along the east boundary of Cemetery Road 30 feet to a point where a line drawn parallel to the south boundary line of such Outlot 24 intersects such east boundary of Cemetery Road, thence west along such parallel line to a point where such parallel line intersects the west boundary of Cemetery Road, thence south along the west boundary of Cemetery Road, to the place of beginning.

(2) *Cemetery Road right-of-way.* Along the public right-of-way on the east side of Cemetery Road from a line formed by extending the south boundary line of Outlot 16, Assessor's Plat, Sheet No. 5, City of Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin, until it intersects the east side of Cemetery Road to a line which is an extension of the north line of the snowmobile route described in subsection (c)(1) of this section. Snowmobiles using this route shall not drive onto the paved surface of Cemetery Road.

Such snowmobile routes shall be marked in accordance with law by the superintendent of public works. Snowmobiles shall travel on the righthand side of such snowmobile routes. Snowmobiles may be operated upon the snowmobile routes designated in this section only between 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

(Code 1986, § 7.07(4))

Below are some useful websites full of information on snowmobiling:

This site will allow you to register your snowmobile online and also provides great information on snowmobiling.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/Org/caer/cs/registrations/snow.htm>

For a map of the snowmobile trails in Rock County please visit the following web site.:

[http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/PublicWorks/parks/documents/SnowmobileMap20Rev10\\_07.pdf](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/PublicWorks/parks/documents/SnowmobileMap20Rev10_07.pdf)

Snowmobile laws are available at:

[http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/DOCS/snowmobile\\_regulations.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/DOCS/snowmobile_regulations.pdf)

If you want to enroll in a snowmobile safety course, visit the DNR site at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement/safety/upcoming.htm>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Evansville Police Department at 882-2299.