



# CPSC Safety Alert

## Snowmobile Hazards

CPSC recommends the following safety tips for recreational snowmobiling:

- Never drive your snowmobile alone or on unfamiliar ground. Have someone ride along with you, so you can help each other in case of breakdown or accident.
- Drive only on established and marked trails or in areas open to snowmobiles.
- Avoid waterways. Frozen lakes and rivers can be fatal. It is almost impossible to judge adequate ice coverage or depth.
- Avoid driving in bad weather. Check warnings for snow, ice and wind chill conditions before starting.
- Watch the path ahead to avoid rocks, trees, fences (particularly barbed wire), ditches and other obstacles.
- Slow down at the top of a hill. A cliff, snow bank or other unforeseen hazard could be on the other side. Don't hurdle snow banks. You have control only when your skis are on the ground.
- Do not wear headphones or ear buds while snowmobiling.
- Wear a snowmobile helmet that meets safety standards DOT FMVSS 218 or Snell M-2010 or ECE 22.05.
- Learn the snowmobile traffic laws and regulations for the area. Many states prohibit snowmobiles on public roads. Some states have minimum age requirements for drivers.
- Be sensible about stopping at roads or railroad tracks. Signal your turns to other drivers. Avoid tailgating. Control speed according to conditions.
- Use extra caution if driving at night, because unseen obstacles could be fatal. Do not drive faster than your headlights will allow you to see. Wear reflective clothing. Do not open new trails after dark.
- Never drink while driving your snowmobile. Drinking and driving can prove fatal.
- Be sure the snowmobile is properly maintained and in good operating condition.
- Check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) to see if your snowmobile has been recalled.



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