



Safe Riders!

A snowmobile is only as safe as the person operating it.

The key to safe operation is knowing your snowmobile, using good judgment, and courtesy.





Personal items to pack when riding...

- Driver's license
- Snowmobile safety certification card (if required by your jurisdiction)
- Money
- Medications
- Insurance forms
- Cell phone
- Litter bag
- Water and high energy food
- Any other items you deem important



Safety Equipment to Pack

- Tool kit
- A knife
- A compass and Trail Map
- Spark plugs
- Drive belt
- Two straps
- Flares, waterproof matches
- A flashlight with spare batteries (check batteries often)
- A GPS (global positioning system)
- First Aid Kit



Planning Your Ride

Planning leads to a successful and enjoyable trip.

You should plan prior to riding - where you will ride, how long you will ride, and with whom you will ride.

Find a buddy to ride with. It is safer and more enjoyable to ride with someone.

Planning also includes informing someone of your snowmobile plans.



Before You Ride Checklist

- **Weather forecast, your clothing and the wind chill factor**
- **Throttle (it should freely return to the idle or closed position)**
- **Brakes (they should operate freely and smoothly)**
- **Headlights and taillights**
- **Emergency switch**
- **Fuel and battery**
- **Ski assemblies and rods**
- **Drive belt**
- **General mechanical conditions**
- **Handlebars (they should turn both ways)**
- **Emergency kit, Personal items, Safety Equipment**

When riding in a group, there are a few guidelines you should know...



Snowmobiles should ride single file and not side-by-side. Some trails are not wide enough for two snowmobiles. This will also help when there is two-way traffic on a snowmobile trail.

Follow the snowmobile in front of you at a safe distance that would allow you to stop or slow down in a safe manner. A good rule to follow is the 3 second rule.





Riding with a Passenger

When riding with passengers, remember to ride safely and obey all laws. You now have the responsibility of another person. You should never take any chances or risks.

Inform your passenger of how to ride with you on the snowmobile. Tell him/her to keep their feet flat on the running boards, firmly hold the handgrips, and to lean into the turns with you.

Riding Alone



It is recommended that you should use the buddy system and never ride alone.



If you do choose to ride alone:

- Always use the [Pre-Ride Checklist](#) before going out.
- Always let someone know you are riding alone, where you are going, and when you will be back.
- Be sure you have your [tool kit](#), [emergency kit](#), and [personal items kit](#) with you before you ride out.

Night Riding



**Riding at night can be as enjoyable as day riding.
Extra precautions are a must before you ride.**

- Be certain your headlights, taillights, and brake lights are working before you ride.
- Always drive at speeds that will allow you to stop safely if a dangerous object appears.
- Do not override your headlights, meaning that you are going so fast that you pass through the area illuminated by your headlights before you can stop safely.
- Some trails can be narrow and can be hard to judge at night. Keep your speeds low so you can react to other oncoming riders and so it is easier to slow down.
- Stay on marked trails. Be cautious when crossing roads and always be prepared to stop for anything at a moment's notice.



Riding Positions

Riding positions can vary with the type of terrain you are riding and also your own style. It is important for you to be familiar with each position so that you can safely and confidently navigate the trails.



Sitting

This is the safest and most common riding position. When sitting, keep your body weight low so it will be easier to shift from side to side.



Kneeling

This is a good alternative riding position to rest the body while riding at slow speeds. It is more difficult to keep your balance.



Posting

This is a semi-sitting position that is best suited for traveling over uneven terrain.



Standing

This position should only be used when you have visibility troubles in the sitting position. Be sure to keep your knees bent to absorb the bumps on the trail and keep your speed slow.



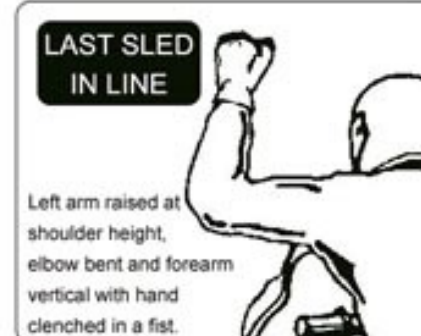
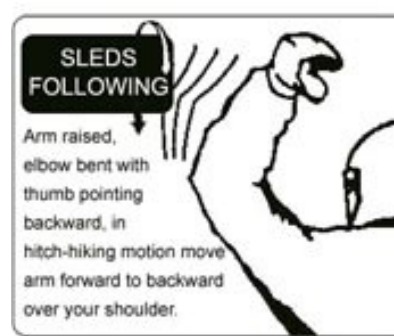
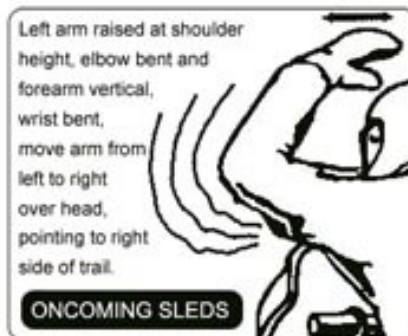
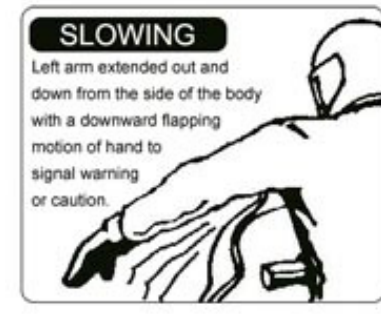
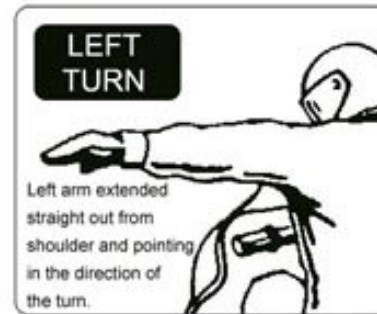
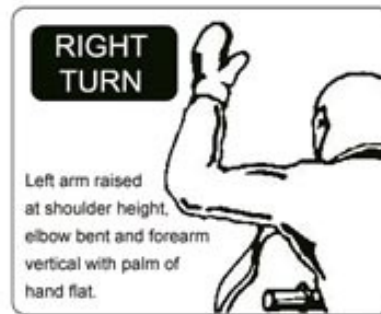
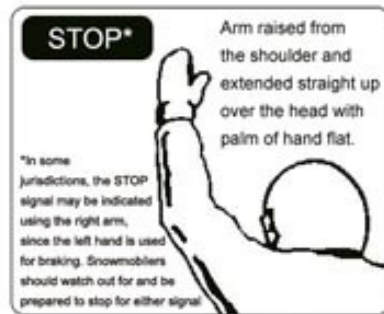
Semi-Kneeling

A semi-kneeling position can be useful when riding in deep powder snow while riding at slower speeds. This will help to control the snowmobile.



Hand Signals

Giving clear, easy-to-see hand signals are vital to safe snowmobile riding. Be sure that the drivers behind you can see any signal you make.





Trail Signs

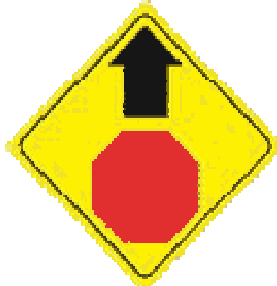
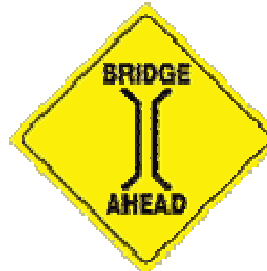
As you travel on your snowmobile through trails and on roads, there will be traffic signs along the way that apply to snowmobiles.

When on roads, remember that all traffic signs for automobiles also apply to snowmobiles, including highway speed limits.

Respecting these signs and following the rules they communicate will help assure an enjoyable ride for you and protect the future of snowmobiling.



Signs you will see!



Snow Conditions



***The weather can produce unpredictable snow conditions.
Be sure to check the weather reports before you leave.
Always be prepared for the unexpected.***

- **Ice** - Ice can form on trails and roads and can make the snowmobile difficult to operate. Not taking precautions can lead to serious injury to you and/or your group.
- **Dirt** - When trails are well used, they can develop areas of snow and dirt mixed together. Try to avoid bare areas of ground since snowmobile use may damage vegetation or cause soil erosion.
- **Powder** - Fresh, powdery snow can be ideal for riding. Powdery snow can linger in the air after snowmobiles pass over it. This snow dust can cut down on visibility for other riders to spot other snowmobilers, trail signs, stop signs, or other motor vehicles. Your speed should always be slower to accommodate for the powder.
- **Wet Snow** - Wet snow can be great to ride on, but can also be difficult. Start out by driving slow, since wet snow can make steering your machine difficult. If snow and moisture get into your clothing, frostbite can occur.

The future of snowmobiling rest in the hands of every snowmobiler.

- Be safe and courteous at all times. Each time you ride your snowmobile, you should portray that snowmobilers take safety seriously
- Respect and obey trail, speed and other signs
- Respect land owners' property when a trail runs through private property
- Use slow speeds to prevent injury to yourself and others
- Respect the groomers, they plow the snow and restore the trails you ride.

Land Owner Appreciation

- When you ride on the trails; wave, smile or stop and say “thanks” when you see a land owner because without them we would not have trails to ride.
- Respect their property
- Stay on the marked trails.

Safe Riders!

Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program



For details
on the subjects
covered tonight,
go to:

www.snowmobilers.org/saferider/homepage/page_00.html

Clubs Events and Rides

December 18th, 2007 – 7:00 pm - Opening Night BOD TRAIL RIDE

January 6th, 2008 – 9:00 am – Coventry Fire Department Pancake Breakfast – Leave from Manley’s Might Mart

January 8th – 7:00 pm - Drawing for Enclosed 10 Ft Trailer at close of meeting

January 20th, 2008 – 10:00 am - Hitchin Post Breakfast ride Out

February 3rd, 2008 – 9:00 am - Coventry Fire Department Pancake Breakfast – Leave from Manley’s Mighty Mart

February 9th, 2008 – 5:00 pm - BC Sno-Riders February Fest

February 17th, 2008 – 10:00 am - Hitchin Post Breakfast ride Out

March 2nd, 2008– 9:00 am - Coventry Fire Department Pancake Breakfast - Leave Manley’s Mighty Mart

March 16th, 2008 – 10:00 am - Hitchin Post Breakfast ride Out

All rides are tentative and based on weather conditions.

Check the website (www.bcsnoriders.snowclubs.com) for details and updates.