Snowmobiling Safety Tips

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|  | * Wear proper clothing for warmth and protection. Be sure it is reflective for night riding. * Wear a snug-fitting helmet that is DOT or SNELL-approved, along with a face shield or goggles. * Check the weather forecast and plan your ride accordingly. Remember that bad weather slows travel. * Bring a map of your route. * Ask locally about ice conditions if your route includes any ice crossings. * Bring a flashlight, tow rope, spare belt, and spark plugs along - and a cellular phone if you have one. * Check belts, treads, lights, and fluid levels before you ride. Test your throttle and brakes. * Drink responsibly - alcohol increases fatigue, impairs judgment, and slows reaction time. * Stop at all road and railroad crossings. Always cross at a 90-degree angle. * Don't tailgate. Leave sufficient distance for braking between your machine and the one in front. * Stay to the right on the trail. Obey all regulations and speed limits. * Keep your feet on your machine at all times during operation. * Use hand signals. * Respect private and No Trespassing signs. * Do not operate snowmobiles on highways. Stay 10 feet off traveled portion. * When passing a pedestrian or ice shanty, speed must be 10 mph or less. * Between 10:30 pm and 7 am, when riding within 100 ft of home or dwelling, speed must be 10 mph or less.   In an effort to prevent snowmobile accidents and improve the quality of recreational riding,  the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers an eight-hour course of snowmobile instruction.  The course includes two hours of actual operation and is offered at locations in nearly every community in the state.  Anyone eleven years of age or older is encouraged to take the course. A nominal fee covers workbooks, training aids,  and administrative costs.  Persons between the ages of 12 and 16, who successfully complete the snowmobile safety course and receive a certificate,  will be eligible to operate a snowmobile without being accompanied by a person over 18.  For the names of instructors in your area, contact your conservation warden or write: Snowmobile Safety, Department of Natural Resources, Box 7201, Madison, WI 53707.  Any person born after 1984 MUST enroll in a snowmobile safety course before operating a snowmobile. |