

CHAPTER 4
SNOWMOBILES

SECTION:

- 6-4-1: Definitions
- 6-4-2: General Operating Requirements And Restrictions
- 6-4-3: Crossing Roadways, Streets And Thoroughfares
- 6-4-4: Persons Under Eighteen Years Of Age
- 6-4-5: Equipment
- 6-4-6: Penalty

6-4-1: **DEFINITIONS:** For the purpose of this Chapter, the terms defined herein shall have the meaning as follows:

COMMISSIONER: The Commissioner of Conservation acting directly or through his/her authorized agent.

OPERATE: To ride in or on and to control the operation of a snowmobile.

OPERATOR: Every person who operates or is in physical control of a snowmobile.

OWNER: A person other than a lienholder, having a legal claim and/or the title to a snowmobile and entitled to the use and possession thereof.

PERSON: An individual, partnership, corporation, the State and its agencies and subdivisions and any body of persons, whether incorporated or not.

ROADWAY, STREET, THOROUGHFARE That portion of a thoroughfare, improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

SNOWMOBILE: A self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow, ice or a natural terrain steered by wheels, skis or runners. (Ord. 92-1,2-24-1992)

6-4-2: GENERAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS: Except as herein specifically permitted and it is unlawful to operate a snowmobile within the corporate limits

A. Public Rights Of Way:

1. **Extreme Right-Hand Side:** On the portion of any right of way of any public roadway, street or thoroughfare, except the most right-hand side, in the same direction as the traffic of the adjacent lane to the operator's left; other than on freeways, interstates, trunk, County State aid or County highways.

2. **Outside Slope Of Borrow Pit:** Snowmobiles may also be operated on the outside slope or bottom of a ditch of a trunk, County State aid or County highway where such highway may be configured within the City limits.

3. **Bridges:** Snowmobiles may be operated, as stated in this Section, on bridges designed for motor vehicle traffic.

B. Speed: At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper all surrounding circumstances; and when operated on roadways, not in excess of the posted speed limit.
under public

C. Hours Of Operation: During the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) P.M. and seven o'clock (7:00) A.M. of any day, closer than one hundred feet (100') to any dwelling which is usually occupied by one or more persons, except while returning home by direct route.

D. Towing: To tow any person or thing on a public street or highway, except if attached by a rigid frame hitch and no more than thirty six inches (36") shall be between the towed object and the snowmobile.

E. Emergencies: Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in this Section, a snowmobile may be operated on a public roadway, street or thoroughfare in an emergency which renders travel by an automobile impractical.

6-4-2

6-4-4

- F. Permission Required: It is unlawful to operate a snowmobile on a public sidewalk, in a public park or recreation area, cemetery, school property or on any private property without specific permission of the owner or person in control of the property.
- G. Special Events Or Circumstances: The City Council or the Police Chief may designate specific areas or trails on public property for special events or circumstances which allow the operation of snowmobiles.
- H. State Traffic Code: All provisions of Minnesota Statutes chapter 169 shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles upon roadways, streets and thoroughfares, except for those relating to required equipment and those which by their nature have no application. (Ord. 92-1, 2-24-1992)

6-4-3: **CROSSING ROADWAYS, STREETS AND THOROUGH-FARES:** A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a roadway, street or thoroughfare, provided:

- A. Right Angle: The crossing is made at a right angle of approximately ninety degrees (90) to the direction of the thoroughfare and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
- B. Complete Stop Required: The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the main traveled portion of the thoroughfare;
- C. Yield Of Right Of Way: The operator yields the right of way to all traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard; and
- D. Divided Roadway; Intersection: In crossing a divided roadway, all such crossings are made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway. (Ord. 92-1, 2-24-1992)

6-4-4: **PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE:**

- A. Operation Prohibited: No person under fourteen (14) years of age shall operate a snowmobile on a street or make a direct crossing of a trunk highway, County State aid highway, County highway or other street.

- B. Safety Certificate: A person fourteen (14) years of age or older, but less than eighteen (18) years of age, may operate a snowmobile on streets and highways as permitted by this Section and make such crossings of streets and highways, only if the operator is in possession of a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the Commissioner, as provided by Minnesota Statutes section 84.872.
- C. Owner Responsibility: It is unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit its operation in violation of this Section. (Ord. 92-1,
2-24-1992)

6-4-5: **EQUIPMENT:** It is unlawful to operate a snowmobile in the City limits unless it is equipped as follows:

- A. Muffler: Standard mufflers which are properly attached and which reduce the noise of operation of the motor to the minimum necessary for operation. No person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass, straight pipe or similar device on a snowmobile motor.
- B. Brakes: Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the snowmobile under any condition of operation.
- C. Deadman Throttle: A deadman throttle in operating condition. A "deadman" throttle is defined as a device which, when pressure is removed from the engine accelerator throttle, causes the motor to cease operating.
- D. Headlight; Taillight:
 1. Headlight Specifications: At least one clear lamp attached to the front, with sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least one hundred feet (100') ahead during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions. Such headlamp shall be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of an oncoming vehicle operator.
 2. Taillight Specifications: It shall also be equipped with at least one red taillamp having a minimum candle power of sufficient intensity to exhibit a red light plainly visible from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the rear during hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions.
 3. Continuous Operation: The headlamp and taillight must be functioning any time the snowmobile is being operated.

6-4-5

6-4-6

- E. Pennant Flag: A pennant flag of red or blaze colored material, of a size not less than nine inches by twelve inches (9" x 12"), at a height not less than six feet (6') from the ground level may be used to enhance identification of a snowmobile. (Ord. 92-1, 2-24-1992)
- F. Running Lights; Reflective Material: Running lights or reflective material at least sixteen (16) square inches on each side, forward of the handlebars so as to reflect or beam light at a ninety degree (90) angle may also be affixed to enhance identification of a snowmobile. (Ord. 92-1, 2-24-1992; 1997 Code)

6-4-6: **PENALTY:** Any person who shall violate any provision of this Chapter or any regulation of the Commissioner of Conservation or Commissioner of Transportation promulgated pursuant to this Chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to penalty as provided in Section 1-4-1 of this Code. (Ord. 92-1, 2-24-1992; 1997 Code)