



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

# Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.44

**Please remember to consider internal and external community agencies as subject matter experts and engage with them as needed.**

**Subject topics not related to police should be delivered by the appropriate agency.**

**It is recommended that you review and adapt this presentation if required to suit your audience and insert local relevant statistics, images and information.**



# What is a Motorized Snow Vehicle?

A self propelled vehicle designed to be driven primarily on snow



# What is a Motorized Snow Vehicle?

This is also considered a motorized snow vehicle



# THIS IS NOT a Motorized Snow Vehicle



# Driver Requirements

Everyone who drives a motorized snow vehicle in Ontario must:

- be at least 12 years old (unless on private property AND operator is the child of land owner/occupier)
- have a valid driver's licence or motorized snow vehicle operator's licence
- register the motorized snow vehicle with the Ministry of Transportation
- have valid insurance



# Licensing and Document Requirements

Driver's **must carry** the following **three** documents:

1. A valid driver's licence, a valid motorized snow vehicle operator's licence (MSVOL) or a motorized snow vehicle driver's licence from another jurisdiction
  2. Motorized snow vehicle registration permit
  3. insurance card
- Private property - land owner/occupier is exempt from above **only** if operating on their own property.
  - Operators when **NOT** the land owner or occupier - are **NOT** exempt if operating a motorized snow vehicle on private property
  - MSVOL expires when a driver's license is issued



# Producing Documents

- Shall produce documents on demand by a police officer or conservation officer
- Will identify them self with name and address (if no documents) to Police or Conservation Officer

**Failing to produce any of these documents could result in a fine of up to \$1000**





# Driving Restrictions

**WHERE you can ride depends on the driver's age and type of driver's licence.**

**Age 16 and over WITH a valid Ontario driver's licence, MSVOL or motorized snow vehicle licence from another jurisdiction**

- ✓ Motorized snow vehicle trails
- ✓ Across a road, where permitted
- ✓ On roadways, where permitted

**Age 12 years or older WITH a valid MSVOL or a licence from another jurisdiction**

- ✓ Anywhere (trails included) BUT NOT on a roadway or crossing a roadway

**Any age with no valid Ontario driver's licence, MSVOL or snowmobile licence from another jurisdiction**

- ✓ Private property ( only if operator is the land owner/occupier)

**Under age 12**

- ✓ Private property (only if operator is child of land owner/occupier)



# Where Not to Ride

You CANNOT ride:

- On certain high-speed roads (400-series highways, Queen Elizabeth Way, Ottawa Queensway, Kitchener-Waterloo Expressway)
- On the pavement of public roads where vehicles drive
- On the plowed portion of the shoulder
- Check with each municipality on snowmobile by-laws for roads within its boundaries.



# Where to Ride

You can ride:

- On your own property or property you occupy
- On private trails belonging to organizations of which you are a member (if trail crosses private property – be aware)
- On private property, with the owner's permission
- Alongside public roads, between the shoulder and fence line (unless prohibited by the municipality)
- Frozen bodies of water (become an extension of crown land)

Remember:

Operators when **NOT** the land owner or occupier - are **NOT** exempt from licencing and document requirements if operating a motorized snow vehicle on private property and **MUST** wear a helmet



# Highway and Roadways Defined

- **Highway** – designed and intended for, or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles
  - Fence Line to fence line and includes plowed portion of shoulder
- **Roadway** – part of the highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic
  - Does not include the shoulder or sidewalks
- Generally you can not operate MSV on serviced roadway of King's Highways or secondary highways

**\*\*Remember youth operators (12-15 years) cannot operate on highway**



# Speed Limits

Motorized snow vehicles may not be operated at a greater rate of speed than:

- 50 km/h - on motorized snow vehicle trails
- 50 km/h - on roads where the speed limit is over 50 km/h
- 20 km/h - on roads where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less
- 20 km/h - in any public park or exhibition grounds

**\*\*Remember when on the highway (where permitted) a motorized snow vehicle driver must obey signs and laws as per the Highway Traffic Act.**



# Motorized Snow Vehicle Trails

Ontario's motorized snow vehicle trail system is maintained by many local snowmobile clubs.

- Operated or maintained by/on behalf of Ontario Federation of Snowmobile clubs (OFSC) AND a trail permit is required
- Identified by sign bearing letters "OFSC" AND words "Prescribed Trail"

Trails are patrolled by:

- Ontario Provincial Police
- Municipal Police Services
- Conservation officers



# Trail Permit

For trails maintained by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC):

- you must have and display a valid trail permit affixed to the windshield or engine cowling of your snowmobile.
- This includes trails on private property, municipal property and land owned by the government.



# Motorized Snow Vehicle Permits

Owner shall not drive a motorized snow vehicle (MSV) or cause or allow MSV to be driven

**UNLESS**

MSV has a VALID permit or MSV is being driven on the owner's property







# Registration Decal and Numbers

A device is issued by the Minister must be affixed to the left side of the motorized snow vehicle as evidence of a valid permit.

- Affixed on the upper right portion of the left decal or the left side of cowlings between the registration number and rear of cowlings OR
- By numbers painted on or affixed to
- Shall be kept clean and unobstructed



# Insurance

- No person shall drive a motorized snow vehicle (MSV) unless MSV insured under a motor vehicle liability policy in accordance with the Insurance Act.
- Land owner/occupier shall not allow anyone to drive MSV unless vehicle insured
- Driver shall produce proof of insurance on request of police officer or conservation officer



# Helmets

- Drivers and passengers must always wear a motorized snow vehicle helmet that meets the standards approved for motorcycle helmets, with the chin strap securely fastened.
- Everyone who rides on a cutter, sled or similar device towed by a snowmobile must also wear a helmet.
- Owner or occupier of private property are exempt from wearing a helmet when on their own property – operators when NOT the owner or occupier - are NOT exempt from wearing a helmet on private property



# Equipment

- No person shall drive or permit to be driven a motorized snow vehicle with a component or device required under provisions of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada) removed, modified, or rendered inoperative
- Muffler must be in good working order in constant operation and not modified or aftermarket
- Motorized snow vehicle must have **ON** at all times one working head lamp and one working tail lamp



# Towing

- You must use a rigid tow-bar when towing a sled or similar device behind a snowmobile
- Only permitted to cross roadways while towing



# Offences: Impaired Driving

Alcohol, cannabis, illegal drugs, even prescription and some over-the-counter drugs can affect your driving ability. Under the Criminal Code, impaired driving by alcohol and/or drug(s) is prohibited regardless of whether it is in a motor vehicle or a motorized snow vehicle.

- If convicted of impaired driving on a motorized snow vehicle, you will lose your driving privileges for **ALL TYPES** of vehicles for at least one year.
- 3, 7 and 30 day suspensions can be issued as a result of “trail side” screening device readings
- Zero tolerance administrative sanctions for young/novice drivers under the Highway Traffic Act also apply to young/novice drivers who operate a motorized snow vehicle.



# Offences: Cannabis Act 2017

- The *Cannabis Act, 2017* requires that anyone transporting cannabis on a motorized snow vehicle, just like a motor vehicle, must ensure that it is either:
  - ✓ (1) unopened and in its original packaging, or
  - ✓ (2) packed in baggage that is fastened closed, or
  - ✓ (3) not readily available to any person on the motorized snow vehicle





# Offences: Smoke Free Ontario Act 2017

- Under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, it is prohibited for a driver or a passenger to consume cannabis in any manner in a vehicle while it is being driven or under someone's care or control, regardless of whether or not it is in motion. **A vehicle includes a motorized snow vehicle.**
- Regulations under this Act provide an exemption for medical cannabis users, who are passengers in vehicles, to consume cannabis as long as it is not smoked or vaped (consumed through an electronic cigarette). The only way that this could occur would be if the cannabis was not readily available to the driver, which would likely not be the case on a motorized snow vehicle.



# Stopping on Demand or Request

- Motorized snow vehicle operator shall stop upon request of land owner or occupier of land
- Motorized snow vehicle operator **shall** stop and identify self with correct name and address
- Motorized snow vehicle operator **shall** stop for police or conservation officer regardless of whether officer is operating an MSV or motor vehicle
- Failing to stop fine ranges from \$1000 to \$10000, imprisonment for up to 6 months or both and a licence suspension



# Accidents and Liability

- Every person in charge of a motorized snow vehicle who is directly or indirectly involved in an accident **shall** report the accident forthwith to the nearest police officer if the accident results in personal injury or damage to property apparently exceeds \$400
- Drivers and owners of Motorized snow vehicles are liable for damages or injury, provided owner consented to use of MSV





# Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.44

Versions

Regulations under this Act

Revoked/spent regulations under this Act

**O. Reg. 186/01**

TRAIL GROOMING

**O. Reg. 185/01**

TRAIL PERMITS

**R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 805**

MOTORIZED SNOW VEHICLE OPERATORS' LICENCES

**R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 804**

GENERAL

**R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 803**

DESIGNATIONS



Download

# Planning Your Trip

- Fill your gas tank and check weather and trail conditions
- Dress appropriately and tell someone your route and expected return
- Pack a survival kit and mechanical kit
- Always drive within your ability, stay on the RIGHT of trail and take care on corners and hills
- Reduce your speed at night and don't drive at speeds that prevent stopping within the area illuminated by your headlight, hazards are harder to see
- Wear reflective clothing
- Wear a buoyant suit and avoid driving on unfamiliar frozen lakes and rivers as open water is not always visible
- Never drive on slushy weak ice, ice near moving water, ice that has thawed and refrozen, or has been broken up



# Thank you!

## Questions?

## Ride safely !

Additional resources can be found at:

[Ministry of Transportation](#)

