

SAFETY

Snowmobiling in Saskatchewan Handbook

SGI
Take care out there

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Registration

Under *The Snowmobile Act*, a snowmobile must be registered and the operator licensed before it can be driven on roads (where allowed), ditches, other highway rights of way, provincial parks, Crown land, designated snowmobile trails, rivers or lakes. Registration is not required to drive on privately-owned land if permission is granted by the owner/tenant. (Privately-owned land, other than roads, includes land owned or controlled by cities, towns, villages, rural municipalities, churches and schools.)

Licensed trappers and licensed commercial fishermen are exempt from registering snowmobiles while operating on Crown land within the Northern Administration District.

Where do I register my snowmobile?

You can register your snowmobile with any SGI motor licence issuer. Included with your registration fee is an insurance premium (for third-party liability insurance of $200,000). Upon payment, you will be issued a certificate of registration and licence plate. Carry the certificate when operating the snowmobile and attach the plate to the machine.

Caution: Wherever a snowmobile is used, the operator must exercise due care and attention. It is the owner/operator's responsibility to prove that any loss, damage or injury caused by a snowmobile did not arise through negligence or improper conduct.

Driver's licence

When is a driver's licence required?

An individual must hold a valid driver's licence when operating a snowmobile in any area where the snowmobile is required to be registered (i.e., any area that is not private land). A learner's licence is not considered a driver's licence under *The Snowmobile Act.*

If a person is at least 16 years of age and does not have a driver's licence, they are permitted to operate a snowmobile in public areas except for the travelled portion of a road, provided they have successfully completed a snowmobile safety course.

A person who is at least 15 years of age and holds a Class 7 learner's licence is permitted to operate a snowmobile on the travelled portion of a road (where a bylaw exists allowing for the operation of snowmobiles on public roads), provided they are supervised or accompanied by someone who holds a valid driver's licence. Snowmobile operators born on or after **Jan. 1, 1989**, must have completed a safety course to operate a snowmobile in a public area, even if they have a driver's licence.

Non-residents who visit Saskatchewan, hold a valid licence from their home jurisdiction and produce it immediately upon request by any peace officer are not required to obtain a Saskatchewan licence.

Underage operators

Children 12 to 15 cannot drive a snowmobile on any travelled portion of a road or street, except to cross it. Operators that are 15 and hold a Class 7 learner's licence can operate on the travelled portion of the road when permitted by a local bylaw as long as they are accompanied or supervised by someone who holds a valid driver's licence.

Other than on streets and roads, these underage operators can operate snowmobiles under the same conditions as a licensed driver, provided they have successfully completed a snowmobile safety course and are supervised by someone who holds a valid Saskatchewan driver's licence.

The supervisor may accompany a learner on the same or on another snowmobile. The supervisor:

- may supervise only one underage operator at a time
- may not be more than 50 m (165 ft.) from the trainee
- must keep the trainee in sight to permit visual communication
- is deemed to be the operator of the other machine and may be held liable for the actions of the underage operator

Drivers that are born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, must produce a safety course certificate at the request of a peace officer.

Neither a safety course nor a supervisor is required for those 12 or older to operate a snowmobile across a public road for the purpose of travelling from one privately-owned land area to another on the opposite side of the road.

Where to ride

Streets, roads, highways and ditches

Only when permitted by a local bylaw, riding is allowed on the travelled portion of a road or street. Riding on a provincial highway is strictly prohibited, except to cross it. In some cases, even the crossing of certain streets, roads or highways is prohibited. Riding is permitted in any ditch or other portion of the highway right-of-way unless such operation is specifically prohibited.

Provincial parks and other Crown land

You can drive a snowmobile:

- on designated snowmobile trails
- on Crown land
  - riding is generally permitted unless regulations or posted signs prohibit snowmobiling
- in ditches along provincial highways
  - riding is generally permitted unless regulations or posted signs prohibit snowmobiling
- in ditches or other public areas within an urban or rural municipality
  - some municipalities may have bylaws that prohibit it. Contact your local municipality to check
- in parks
  - check with the Park Authority

Privately-owned land or leased Crown land

You need permission from the land owner/tenant to drive a snowmobile on private land or leased Crown land. You can get permission verbally, in writing, or from posted signs that show snowmobiles are authorized.

Caution: If you don't know, don't go.

Cities, towns, villages and hamlets

In order to ride on land that is owned by and within the limits of cities, towns, villages and hamlets, the person must first get permission from the city, town, village or hamlet.

About snowmobile trails

The snowmobile registration and associated licence plate give the snowmobile owner permission to travel the province's 11,200 km of groomed trails. Snowmobilers are not required to purchase a separate trail permit to access the snowmobile trail system.

The provincial trail system is managed and maintained by the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association and its member clubs. For more information on the provincial trail system, visit the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association website at **sasksnow.com**, contact them at 306-729-3500 or by email at **info@sasksnow.com**

All snowmobiles operating on designated trails must be registered. This does not apply to land owners or their immediate family members when the trail is situated on their private land.

Non-residents who are operating a snowmobile that is registered in another jurisdiction are not required to have a Saskatchewan registration to access the provincial trail system, providing the operator has with them proof of financial responsibility.

Designated snowmobile trails are restricted to snowmobile use only between Dec. 1 and Apr. 15, with exception to emergency vehicles, vehicles operated on behalf of the trail manager, or a vehicle operated by the land owner, their immediate family, or a lawful occupant of that land. If a motor vehicle must cross a designated trail, they must do so in the shortest and most direct route possible.



Rules of the 'road'

Snowmobilers must obey all applicable traffic rules, including:

- traffic control signs and lights regulating traffic on, approaching or leaving highways
- trail signs, markers and directional signs
- following at a reasonable and safe distance
- driving with due care and attention and with consideration for other people and property
- not driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs
- never driving faster than 80 km/h or the posted speed limit, including the speed limits posted on designated snowmobile trails
- yielding right-of-way:
  - keep to the right when approaching other vehicles, including snowmobiles
  - yield to all vehicles when approaching from the right
  - keep clear of the other vehicle when passing

Crossing roads and highways

Crossing a road or highway is permitted when the crossing is done outside the limits of any city, town or village, or when a bylaw is in place to allow the crossing within a city, town or village. Registration is not required to cross a highway. The procedure for crossing is as follows:

- bring the snowmobile to a complete stop before entering any highway lane
- unload passengers (if any) from the snowmobile and/or towed conveyance.
- yield the right of way to all other vehicles and people using the highway
- lift up visor or goggles and look in both directions
- take the shortest and most direct route across the highway

Note: Passengers must disembark from the snowmobile and cross the highway on foot.

Riding beside a road

If riding in a highway ditch or right-of-way, you should travel in the same direction as the nearest traffic lane. This is a requirement at night when you are within 30 m (100 ft.) of the road, to prevent creating confusing and dangerous situations for other vehicle drivers. Riding in the median of divided highways is dangerous and illegal.

Collisions

What if I'm involved in a collision?

If you are in a collision resulting in property damage, injury or death, you must:

- offer as much assistance as possible to anyone injured
- return as soon as possible if you must leave for help
- offer the following information to any person sustaining loss or injury:
  - your name and address
  - the name and address of the owner of the snowmobile you are operating
  - the plate (or permit number) of the snowmobile you are operating

If you strike an unattended vehicle or cause property damage unknown to the owner, you must take all reasonable steps to locate the owner and advise them of the incident by providing this information. If you are unable to locate the owner, leave a note in a conspicuous place on the damaged property, outlining the details of the incident.

Is a collision report required?

If the collision results in death or injury, or it is suspected alcohol is involved, it must be reported to police.

Insurance

What insurance coverage do I have?

Plate insurance – If you are operating a registered snowmobile legally, the owner and operator are insured against third-party liability for amounts up to $200,000.

Damage to your snowmobile and any personal injuries sustained while operating a snowmobile are not covered under the licence plate insurance program.

Package policy or extension coverage – To augment the coverage provided under licence plate insurance, package policies are available for physical damage coverage and to increase third-party liability limits. Personal injury coverage is available through life and disability insurers. Some insurance companies place conditions on snowmobile use. For example:

- No insurance is provided when children under 12 operate the machine, even on private land.
- An insurance premium surcharge is imposed when children 12 to 16 operate a machine between 350-550 cc (depending on the insurer).
- No insurance is provided when children operate a snowmobile in excess of the cc's allowed by the insurer.

Without the coverage detailed above, an owner/operator in a collision may be financially responsible for the damages caused. Check with your insurance broker to determine your best insurance protection.

Am I covered by insurance if I enter a snowmobile rally?

Insurance coverage is provided as long as the rally is not a race or speed test.

Coverage is not provided if the snowmobile operator is:

- impaired by alcohol or drugs
- over the legal blood-alcohol limit
- not qualified to drive
- driving contrary to their driver's licence conditions
- engaging in high marking activities (attempt to see whose snowmobile can reach steep mountain slopes)

Other legislation

In addition to the provisions in *The Snowmobile Act,* there is other legislation affecting snowmobilers:

Criminal Code of Canada

All Criminal Code provisions regulating automobile drivers apply to snowmobile operators, and most provisions apply on private land as well as in public areas. A licence suspension resulting from a conviction of any of the following offences affects all driving privileges:

- driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs (i.e., over .08% blood alcohol content)
- refusing to provide a breath sample
- driving dangerously
- driving while prohibited
- leaving the scene of a collision (hit and run)

The Wildlife Act and Saskatchewan Hunting Guide

You are prohibited from:

- using a snowmobile to force animals or birds towards hunters
- chasing, disturbing, pursuing, injuring or killing any wild animal or bird
- carrying a loaded firearm on, or discharging a firearm from, a snowmobile
- carrying a firearm on a snowmobile in some wildlife management zones during open season
- using a snowmobile for any hunting purpose in some zones
- carrying a firearm, unless encased, on a snowmobile in some zones and areas

For details, please refer to the **Saskatchewan Hunting Guide** or contact a conservation officer from the Ministry of Environment.

The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act

You are not permitted to:

- keep or consume alcohol on a snowmobile
- drink alcohol on or near a snowmobile trail open to the public, or on private property without the consent of the landowner
- transport alcohol on a snowmobile, except from one lawful place of consumption to another such place

For details, refer to the act or contact your local police.

Equipment and clothing

Snowmobile equipment

Snowmobiles must possess the following equipment:

Lights and reflectors

If you are riding at night, headlights must be visible from a distance of 150 m (500 ft.) and be able to light up objects to a distance of 90 m (300 ft.). A red light on the rear should be visible from 60 m (200 ft.). Any towed conveyance must be equipped with a light or reflector which is visible, under normal conditions, from 60 m (200 ft.). Headlight use is also recommended for daytime riding.

Mufflers

The snowmobile must be equipped with a muffler to prevent excessive noise. Excessive noise is not only annoying to the public, it is a hazard to the rider.

Rigid tow bars

Any towed object (sleds, toboggans, etc.) must be connected to the snowmobile by a rigid tow bar not more than 1 m (3 ft.) long. Never use a rope. An exception to this rule is allowed when towing a disabled snowmobile. Towing people on tire tubes or other such devices is extremely dangerous.

Proper clothing

Novice snowmobilers should discuss with experienced riders the best type of clothing to counteract the effects of wind and cold. Do not wear loose clothing or long scarves which could get tangled in the machine. Buoyant suits are available and are recommended for travelling over lakes and rivers. The following clothing is recommended:

Snowsuits

These are designed for complete body protection. They should be windproof and waterproof with zipper flaps, quality insulation, storm cuffs, a knitted collar and inner leg liners that fit tightly at the boots. It is a good idea to wear a suit with reflective striping. Wear thermal underwear for added warmth.

Helmets

The law requires that both the driver and passenger wear helmets. Helmets provide both safety and warmth. When choosing a good helmet, ensure that:

- it is approved as complying with the standards of BSI, CSA, DOT, SNELL, ECE or ANSI for snowmobile or motorcycle use
- it is large enough to fit comfortably over a balaclava (however, the helmet should not be loose if worn without a balaclava)
- it is secured properly with the straps provided
- it has a full-face shield (if no shield, goggles must be worn)

Protective goggles (if helmet has no shield)

Goggles with tinted grey or green lenses are recommended for bright days. Amber or yellow lenses are good for overcast days or late afternoon. These lenses, when used properly, can reveal dangerous depressions in the snow, in addition to protecting your eyes from branches, twigs and other objects.

Caution: Tinted lenses should never be worn for night riding.

Mitts and gloves

Hands are generally not protected by the windshield. Riders of machines without handwarmers should wear warm, windproof mitts or gloves. They should fit tightly at the wrist or overlap the sleeves of the snowsuit to prevent snow from coming in contact with the skin. Leather mitts with wool liners generally provide the best protection.

Boots and socks

Feet, like hands, will get cold if not protected. A good pair of boots with a rubber bottom, leather or nylon tops and felt liners – plus wool thermal socks – are recommended.

Note: If you are driving a long distance in a warm car to your snowmobiling site, do not wear your snowmobile boots. Your feet may perspire and will not stay warm in damp socks or boots. Do not transport your boots in the cold trunk – cold boots mean cold feet. Warming the boots quickly produces moisture. Instead, carry the boots inside the vehicle away from direct heat and bring extra socks.

Emergency equipment

In addition to the snowmobile equipment required by law, there are other items that can add to your safety:

Cellphones

Consider taking a cellphone with you, even on short trips. You can call for help in an emergency.

Rear-view mirrors

Mirrors are useful for trail riding. They are readily available and can be mounted on any snowmobile. Consider using wrist mirrors.

Antenna flags

Brightly coloured antenna flags on rods ranging from 1.8 to 2.4 m (6 to 8 ft.) in length are useful for warning other snowmobilers of your presence, especially on hilly terrain. These flags should be mounted on the rear of the snowmobile.

Tools, emergency kit, etc.

Snowmobilers should carry trouble-shooting tools, a snowmobile operating manual and survival equipment, especially when assistance is not readily available. Remember, a snowmobile can cover as much distance in one hour as a person can walk in two days.

Distance, duration of journey and location should all factor into your decision on what to take. Several basic items will allow you to make simple repairs on the spot. These include a tool kit, spark plugs and drive and fan belts. If travelling in heavy brush or remote areas, take a flashlight, waterproof matches, tow rope, compass, first aid kit and maps. Snowmobile survival kits should contain a knife, matches, flint, flares, candles, canned heat, dehydrated food, metal cup, axe or saw, rope, shovel, extra ignition key, first aid items and anything else that may be useful in case of a breakdown. If you are on a long journey, a sleeping bag and a pair of snowshoes will prove invaluable. The sleeping bag should be a bright colour, easily visible to air rescue crews.

Pre-ride preparation

Study your owner's manual before using your machine. There are a number of precautions to take prior to starting a snowmobile. These tips can ensure a more enjoyable outing:

- prop up the back of the machine and ensure the track is free of ice
- point the machine in a safe direction (away from people and objects)
- check to make sure the throttle is not sticking (if it is sticky or sluggish, do not attempt to start the machine)
- check the emergency switch
- check the fuel supply
- do not refuel when the engine is running
- check all lights and brakes
- do not start the machine if people are standing in front of it
- carry emergency equipment and tools
- tell someone your destination and when you plan to arrive
- use the buddy system for riding
- consider carrying a cellphone with you

Handling gasoline

Snowmobile users, and those who use other gas-powered winter equipment, should know the cold-weather hazards of handling volatile fuels. These fuels do not freeze, even at sub-zero temperatures. A spill on your hands can cause very quick and serious freezing of exposed skin. When gasoline touches the skin at sub-zero temperatures, it evaporates immediately. This reduces the skin's temperature and increases the risk of frostbite or freezing. Immediately wipe off any spilled fuels that touch the skin and cover the affected area to restore warmth and decrease the risk of frostbite or freezing.



Training

A structured training program is mandatory for new drivers who are at least 12 years old and born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, and is recommended for new drivers who are born before 1989. Experienced riders should monitor the progress of new drivers and must supervise all new sledding techniques. Seasoned snowmobilers should consider participating in formal training courses to improve their knowledge of sledding, safety practices and related legislation.

To arrange for a safety course in your area, contact:

Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
Box 533, 221 Centre Street, Regina Beach, SK S0G 4C0
Phone: 306-729-3500 Fax: 306-729-3505
Email: **info@sasksnow.com**
Or visit **sasksnow.com** to sign up for an online snowmobile safety course.



Staying safe

Passenger safety

Since snowmobiles handle differently when fully loaded, operators must take extra care when carrying passengers:

- use only machines designed for that purpose
- do not carry more than one passenger at a time
- ensure the passenger wears a helmet and proper clothing
- ensure the passenger uses handle grips or a passenger strap and keeps their feet on running boards
- warn the passenger of approaching hazards, rough terrain or unusual conditions
- instruct the passenger about leaning into curves, hills and turns

Safety tips on snowmobile trails

- obey all trail signs, markers and speed limits
- watch for approaching snowmobiles
- move to the right when meeting snowmobiles
- on narrow trails, yield to machines going up steep hills
- do not stop on a curve or hill
- watch for branches and other obstacles
- remove obstacles or notify the club or park's office
- watch for trail-grooming equipment, even at night
- use hand signals to acknowledge awareness of others when passing or meeting other snowmobilers
- remove the machine from the trail (especially at night) if a breakdown occurs
- do not remove or tamper with trail traffic signs. Removal of these signs could result in serious injury or even death

(See page 6 for Rules of the 'road')

A word on alcohol

Alcohol is a significant contributing factor in fatal road-vehicle crashes in Saskatchewan each year. The problem appears to be even worse among snowmobilers. Studies of snowmobile deaths indicate that three out of four snowmobilers had been drinking. Operating a snowmobile while impaired is an offence and carries the same penalty as driving a vehicle while impaired. The law applies while riding on private property, as well as on public roadways and trails.

Despite popular belief, alcohol does not warm you up. In fact, it has the opposite effect: it dissipates body heat through increased blood circulation and increases your susceptibility to cold and hypothermia. The cold can make you thirsty (dehydration is very common in cold weather), but don't look to alcohol to quench your thirst. If you want something to drink that warms you up, carry a thermos of coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

Hazards

Snowmobiling can be a hazardous sport. Slow down when travelling over unfamiliar terrain and especially on ice, because traction for braking and steering is poor. Hanging branches, guy wires, posts, ditches and thin ice are responsible for many casualties each year. These hazards can be avoided with a little care and attention.

Blizzards and whiteouts

These conditions greatly impede visibility, so it is important to slow down or seek shelter until conditions improve.

Flatlight

Flatlight is a condition that occurs on a cloudy day, at sunrise or sunset. There is very little depth perception or shadowing during these conditions. This condition is especially severe after a fresh snowfall. The snowmobiler has great difficulty seeing the terrain; bumps and holes seem to disappear and it looks deceivingly smooth. Slow down and wear sunglasses with yellow lenses during flatlight conditions.

Thin ice

What may look like a smooth, hard lake surface could turn out to be open water covered with a layer of thin ice and snow. Be sure the ice on the lake, river or stream is thick enough to carry the weight of the machine and riders (at least 12 cm (5 in.) thick).

Take particular care to avoid any area on a lake or stream where there may be water movement, such as where streams or springs enter lakes, and narrow channels between bays in lakes.

Fences and posts

These hazards are especially common in Saskatchewan. Watch for snow-covered posts and dangling barbed wire. Beware of raised surfaces in the snow. A fence, post, rock pile, grain storage bag or other dangerous object may be hidden beneath the surface. Look for fence wire between fence posts.

Ditches and excavations

In the winter, ditches and excavations may become completely covered with snow, obscuring possible dangers. Deep trenches, rough excavations or open water are a few perils found along snowmobile trails that pass near roads or residential areas.

Culverts

Ditches are intersected frequently by approaches that have culverts. Several collisions are reported every year where unsuspecting drivers have hooked a ski in an open culvert, causing the machine to flip. Watch for snow-covered culverts.

Guy wires

Utility rights-of-way generally have power line towers which are supported by guy wires. When travelling in these areas, snowmobilers should reduce speeds and keep a sharp lookout.

Railway tracks

Never ride on a railway track or railway property. It is trespassing and illegal, and the snowmobile motor may drown out the sound of an approaching train. A snowmobiler may find it necessary to cross a railway track. Cross only at authorized crossings. If that's not possible, the procedure for crossing a railway track is the same as for crossing a highway: come to a complete stop, unload passengers from the snowmobile and attached sled (if any), yield to any railway traffic, then proceed straight across the track at a 90-degree angle.

Night riding

Collisions frequently occur at night. All the hazards described previously are much more dangerous at night. Objects such as fences and guy wires provide little reflective surface for headlights, and thin ice is nearly impossible to detect.

Keep these things in mind:

- ensure the headlights and tail lights are working
- reduce your speed (do not overdrive your vision)
- avoid unfamiliar terrain, especially lakes and streams
- carry a flashlight or flare
- do not ride alone at night
- ride in the same direction as nearby road traffic
- wear reflective clothing

Cold weather maladies

Hypothermia

Hypothermia occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Wet clothes, cold, wind and perspiration from strenuous activity can cause heat loss and hypothermia. Symptoms include shivering, fumbling, stupor, slow speech, memory lapse, drowsiness, low body temperature and apparent exhaustion. The hypothermic person should be taken to a doctor (if practical, bring medical help to the victim instead of transporting them). Meanwhile, remove all the person's wet clothes and increase body temperature with warm, dry clothes or blankets. If a doctor is not available, keep the person awake, offer a warm drink and consider transferring body heat person-to-person in a sleeping bag.

Frostbite

Frostbite is a common cold-weather injury, usually affecting exposed ears, noses, fingers and toes. Frostbitten skin will turn a noticeable greyish-yellow hue and be numb to the touch. The best treatment is to apply warm hands to the affected areas – do not rub and do not apply snow. Severe frostbite can result in intense coldness, confusion, disorientation and impaired judgment. Try to find shelter, exercise to increase blood circulation, and seek immediate medical assistance.

Snow blindness

Snow blindness occurs during intense sunlight, particularly when the sun reflects off snow. Symptoms include dizziness, severe headache, seeing stars and extreme sensitivity to light. Treatment is complete darkness. Proper eyewear will prevent snow blindness.

Your attitude

Snowmobiling is fun! It is an exciting, popular and sociable family winter recreational activity, and it's good for Saskatchewan's economy. It's estimated that 50,000 snowmobiles are used in the province. People who farm, trap game and ice fish use machines routinely in their work. However, most snowmobiles are used for recreation. Snowmobiling may be fun, but it's also a major contributor to deaths and injuries in Saskatchewan. Risky behaviour, speed, alcohol and unfamiliarity with the terrain or the machine are major factors in deaths and injuries. The safest sledding areas are groomed, signed snowmobile trails.

Remember:

- Alcohol impairs judgment and dulls the senses, leading to poor decisions and a slower reaction time.
- An irresponsible attitude that rules should not apply on private land results in risky behaviour such as speeding, driving or passing on the wrong side, passing on blind curves, disregarding warning signs or unsafe sledding conditions, and exceeding the snowmobiler's skills or knowledge.
- Unsafe practices, such as riding at night in unfamiliar areas, crossing lakes and rivers, or overdriving your vision/headlights (i.e., driving so fast that you can't stop in time when an obstacle appears) should be avoided.

Note: Safety is your responsibility. Set a good example!

Your good attitude and actions can influence others. Individually and collectively, adopt the practice of separating the acts of drinking and snowmobiling. Help novice riders to recognize that skills are built slowly, and that they shouldn't try copying the difficult manoeuvres of more experienced riders or be tempted to test the capabilities of powerful snowmobiles. Snowmobiling is fun – but do it safely!

Snowmobile clubs

Saskatchewan has many scenic snowmobile areas and more than 11,000 km of trails to explore. Many snowmobile areas have been developed by local clubs. Join a snowmobile club in your community or help organize one. Clubs enable novice snowmobilers to mingle with more experienced riders, practise safety rules and improve their operating skills. Clubs are involved in social activities, trail development and maintenance, rides, training programs, safety clinics and emergency rescue services.

In winter, emergencies can arise when the only method of rescue is the snowmobile. An emergency rescue service that is well-equipped, well-trained and properly publicized can assist a community in the event of an emergency.

Where to ride in Saskatchewan

The safest place to ride is on groomed trails. For information about snowmobiling anywhere in the province, on joining one of the more than 100 snowmobile clubs or on forming your own club, contact:

Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
Box 533, 221 Centre St. Regina Beach, SK S0G 4C0
Phone: 306-729-3500 Fax: 306-729-3505
Email: **info@sasksnow.com**
Website: **sasksnow.com**

For information on snowmobiling in provincial parks, call the **Parks Inquiry Line** toll free at **1-800-205-7070**.

For information on snowmobiling attractions, other winter activities and central reservation services throughout the province, call **Tourism Saskatchewan** at **306-787-9600** in Regina, toll free at **1-877-237-2273** or visit **tourismsaskatchewan.com**.

Wind chill chart

Temperature (˚C)	Wind Speed (km/h)												
	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	60	70	80
5	4	3	2	1	1	0	0	-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-3
0	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-6	-7	-7	-8-	-8	-9	-9	-10
-5	-7	-9	-11	-12	-12	-13	-14	-14	-15	-15	-16	-16	-17
-10	-13	-15	-17	-18	-19	-20	-20	-21	-21	-22	-23	-23	-24
-15	-19	-21	-23	-24	-25	-26	-27	-27	-28	-29	-30	-30	-31
-20	-24	-27	-29	-30	-32	-33	-33	-34	-35	-35	-36	-37	-38
-25	-30	-33	-35	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-42	-43	-44	-45
-30	-36	-39	-41	-43	-44	-46	-47	-48	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52
-35	-41	-45	-48	-49	-51	-52	-53	-54	-55	-56	-57	-58	-60
-40	-47	-51	-54	-56	-57	-59	-60	-61	-62	-63	-64	-65	-67
-45	-53	-57	-60	-62	-64	-65	-66	-68	-69	-69	-71	-72	-74
-50	-58	-63	-66	-68	-70	-72	-73	-74	-75	-75	-78	-80	-81

Approximate thresholds

- risk of frostbite in prolonged exposure: wind chill below -25
- frostbite possible in 10 minutes at -35*
- frostbite possible in two minutes at -60*

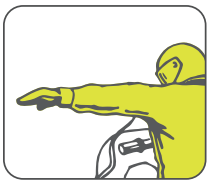
* Warm skin, suddenly exposed. Shorter time if skin is cool at the start.

Remember:

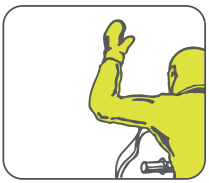
- snowmobilers make their own wind!
- a snowmobiler travelling 40 km/h on a -15˚C day experiences a wind chill of -27˚C

Hand signals

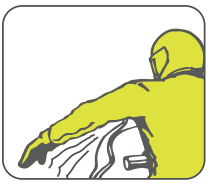
These signals are especially important when group riding. Stay a safe distance behind the snowmobile ahead of you. When you are making a turn, remember that at a blind corner, the noise of your machine may prevent you from hearing another machine coming toward you. Approach turns carefully. Always stay to the right on a trail. Slow down when passing skiers or snowshoers.



Left turn
Left arm extended straight out from shoulder and pointing in the direction of the turn.



Right turn
Left arm raised at shoulder height, elbow bent and forearm vertical with palm of hand flat.



Slowing
Left arm extended out and down from the side of the body with downward motion of hand to signal warning or caution.



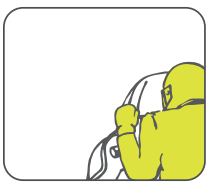
Stop
Right arm raised from the shoulder and extended straight up over the head with palm of hand flat.



Oncoming sleds
Left arm raised at shoulder height, elbow bent and forearm vertical, wrist bent, move arm from left to right over head, pointing to right side of trail.



Sleds following
Arm raised, elbow bent, with thumb pointing backward, in hitch-hiking motion move arm forward to backward over your shoulder.



Last sled in line
Raise forearm from handle bar and show clenched fist at shoulder height.

Traffic signs for snowmobilers

Knowing and heeding these signs will help ensure you have a safe and enjoyable outing:



Indicates to use trail at your own risk



Indicates quiet in, quiet out



Indicates streets and highways where snowmobiling is permitted



Indicates streets and highways where snowmobiling is prohibited



Indicates warning



Indicates a snowmobile crossing



Indicates danger (sign may include "caution ahead")



Indicates to slow down for safety



Indicates intersecting snowmobile trails



Indicates trail blazer snowmobile trail (sign may include a trail name or number)



Indicates designated snowmobile trail



Indicates a stop sign ahead







Indicates a railway crossing

Snowmobile Code of Ethics

- I will know and obey all federal, provincial and local rules regulating the operation of snowmobiles in areas where I use my vehicle.
- I will be a good sportsperson and will respect nature. I recognize that people judge all snowmobilers by my actions. I will use my influence with other snowmobile owners and operators to promote good conduct.
- I will not litter trails or camping areas. I will not pollute lakes or streams. I will carry out what I carried in.
- I will not damage living trees, shrubs or other natural features.
- I will respect other people's property and rights.
- I will respect farmers and pay attention to signs that mark fields where crops are planted.
- I will lend a helping hand when I see someone in distress.
- I will make myself and my machine available to assist in search and rescue operations.
- I will not interfere with or harass hikers, skiers, snowshoers, ice anglers or others. I will respect their rights to enjoy our shared recreation facilities.
- I will obey signs that indicate trapline areas. I will not tamper with or destroy trappers' property, including signs, flags and building structures.
- I will not harass wildlife. I will avoid areas posted for the protection of wildlife.
- I will exercise self-restraint and show good sportsmanlike conduct by avoiding the temptation to ride in hunting zones.
- I will not snowmobile where prohibited.
- Whenever possible, I will stay on groomed trails. I will obey the signs governing the trails.

SGI acknowledges the assistance of the following agencies in the preparation of this guide:

Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association Inc.
Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Ministry of Environment
Tourism Saskatchewan

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SLB202 | 04/2025 | 5194

Take care out there