

Snowmobile Safety Tips

Provided by the Oregon State Snowmobile Association

1. Never ride alone (It could be deadly)
 - a. You could get stuck, breakdown, or get lost.
 - b. You could have snowmobile roll over and pin you down.
2. New rider instruction
 - a. Squeeze throttle slowly until you get used to the power.
 - b. Hold tight, but don't have a death grip on handlebars. Allow handle bars to move slightly (usually an inch) from side to side.
 - c. Don't follow too close & don't cut blind corners.
 - d. Stay on main trails. Tree stumps and rocks can be hidden under the snow off trail.
3. Alcohol and drugs (even prescription or over the counter)
 - a. Impairs ability to react and think
4. Carrying passengers
 - a. Most snowmobiles are not designed for carrying 2 passengers
 - b. "2 Up" snowmobiles are safest for 2 people
 - c. Hazards of having a person sit in front of you on non-2UP
 1. Hit head on handlebar, dash or windshield on fast stop
 2. They can accidentally grab the throttle
 3. Sharp right turn will force front passenger into throttle
 4. Reduce ability to handle the snowmobile safely
5. GPS Maps
 - a. Free GPS Maps for your smart phone can be found at www.OregonSnow.org Click on "Clubs" and then click on the district that you will be riding in.
 - b. We have GPS maps for Mt Hood, Mt Jefferson, Mt Bachelor, Crescent Lake, Paulina Lake, Tollgate and Ochoco
6. Follow the leader
 - a. Leader should never disappear, even if followers know where he's going
 - b. Leader should slow down at corners so that everyone takes corner at safe speed (especially important leading beginners)
7. Obey the laws to preserve our right to ride.
 - a. 5 Mph in the sno-park
 - b. Reduce excessive noise around sno-park and non-snowmobilers
 - c. Slow down and stop if necessary when approaching sled dogs
 - d. Slow down when passing skiers and pedestrians
 - e. Avoid accidents, don't follow too close.
 - f. Respect the environment. You can be fined for destroying trees.
8. Protecting the Snowmobile
 - a. Overheating is #1 cause of expensive repairs. Rental agencies will charge you for repairs related to overheating.
 - b. Watch temp gauge & use ice scratchers when needed.
 - c. Going too slow for too long (less than 10mph) can cause overheating on almost any snowmobile.
9. Safety
 - a. It's easier than you think to become dehydrated. Carry water & protein bar.
10. What to do when stuck
 - a. Avoid gunning the engine as you will become more stuck
 - b. Tip sled on its side and pack the snow under. When all else fails, get out shovel
11. Clothing
 - a. Avoid scarves or loose clothing that could get caught on snowmobile.
 - b. Dress in layers. Cotton will stay wet and is dangerous in extreme conditions.
 - c. 2 or 3 thin layers will keep you warmer than 1 thick piece of clothing.
 - d. Thick gloves are great for skiing but bad for snowmobiling. Thick gloves prevent the heat from heated handlebars from warming your hands and also reduce your ability to hold the handlebars and work the brake and throttle.

For additional safety information see:

<https://www.snowmobile-ed.com/utah/>