

## Snowmobiling at Night

At night, your headlight reduces your peripheral field of vision. Slow down to avoid overrunning your headlights and don't ride alongside roads as lights from other vehicles can impair your vision.

## Safety Tips

Follow these tips to stay safe on roadways and trails.

### Do:

- Get proper training. Take a snowmobile safety course
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to arrive
- Keep your gas tank filled
- Check the weather, trail and ice conditions before you leave
- Wear appropriate clothing to prevent hypothermia
- Regularly inspect your snowmobile to make sure it is in good mechanical condition
- Bring a first-aid kit and a survival kit
- Stay on trails and use proper care and control
- Ride sober

### Do Not:

- Ride on railway tracks
- Ride alone
- Leave children unsupervised with youth snowmobiles
- Leave young children unattended in snowmobile sleds
- Go snowmobiling with an infant (infants cannot endure the cold)

### Did you know?

The top three causes of fatal snowmobile collisions are speeding, impaired driving and carelessness.

## Useful Links

### Snowmobile Safety

[ontario.ca/snowmobilesafety](https://ontario.ca/snowmobilesafety)

### Ice Safety

[www.ontario.ca/page/ice-fishing](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ice-fishing)

### Impaired Driving

[Ontario.ca/drivesober](https://Ontario.ca/drivesober)

### Ontario Driver's Handbook – Snowmobiles

[ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook/off-road-vehicles-snowmobiles](https://ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook/off-road-vehicles-snowmobiles)

### Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

[ofsc.on.ca](https://ofsc.on.ca)

# Snowmobile Safety

What you need to know to snowmobile safely in Ontario



Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity in Ontario. Just remember that operating a snowmobile in the wilderness is very different from driving a car on a paved road. There are different rules and risks. Follow these tips for preparing and operating your vehicle to help keep you and others safe.

### What You'll Need

To operate a snowmobile in Ontario, you must:

- Have and carry a valid driver's licence or motorized snow vehicle operator's licence (MSVOL)
- Carry proof of snowmobile ownership and proof of insurance
- Have a valid Snowmobile Trail Permit affixed to your sled when on trails
- Wear an approved snowmobile helmet for the operator and passengers

### Age Requirements

Where you can ride depends on your age and the type of driver's licence you have.

Age	Licence	Where you can ride
Under 12	N/A	Private property only
12 - 15	None	Private property only
	MSVOL or snowmobile licence from outside Ontario	Private property Snowmobile trails
16+	None	Private property only
	G1 Driver's licence or higher, MSVOL, or equivalent licence from outside Ontario.	Private property
		Snowmobile trails
		Across roads (where permitted) Roadways (where permitted)

Refer to Ontario's Motorized Snow Vehicle's Act, for more detail on all of Ontario's legal requirements for snowmobiling.

### On Roads

You can ride alongside public roads, between the shoulder and fence line (unless prohibited by the municipality)

You can't ride:

- on certain restricted high-speed roads such as 400-series highways
- on the pavement or plowed shoulders of roads and highways where vehicles drive

Be sure to check your municipality's snowmobile by-laws before riding.

- Always check trail availability before entering any trail
- Ride on the right-hand side of the trail
- Come to a complete stop before entering any roadway
- Obey signs and signals
- Slow down when in unfamiliar terrain
- Be extra cautious when crossing roads and railway tracks
- Never ride on private property without permission from the land owner

Visit [ofsc.on.ca](http://ofsc.on.ca) to learn more about safe snowmobiling on Ontario's trails and access their Interactive Trail Guide.



### Obey speed limits!

Always adjust your speed to the weather, roadway and trail conditions. On roadways, maximum speed limits for snowmobiles are lower than speed limits for cars.

- On roadways where the speed limit for cars is 50 km/h or lower, the maximum speed limit for snowmobiles is 20 km/h.
- On roadways where the speed limit for cars is above 50 km/h, the maximum speed limit for snowmobiles is 50 km/h.

On trails, adjust your speed to the weather and trail conditions. The maximum speed limit on snowmobile trails is 50 km/h, but conditions often require a slower speed.

### Impaired Snowmobiling

Just like driving or boating, it is dangerous and illegal to drive a snowmobile when impaired by alcohol, drugs or medication and you'll face the same tough penalties. Always ride sober.

Help keep Ontario's roads and trails safe. Call 9-1-1 to report impaired snowmobiling.

### On Lakes and Rivers

Remember that travelling on ice is always risky and should be avoided. Conditions can change quickly so if you do plan to travel on ice, always check with your local snowmobiling club before leaving and wear a personal flotation device or floater snowmobile suit and carry ice-picks that are easily accessible.