

## SNOWMOBILE - BEFORE YOU RIDE

### Trailer & Towing

For transporting your snowmobile, use a trailer especially designed for transporting snowmobiles.

There are 2-capacity tilt-bed trailers, 2-, 4- or higher capacity flat bed open trailers, and 2, 4, or higher capacity enclosed trailers.

The tilt-bed trailers may be equipped with a winch system to assist with the loading of your snowmobile.

Open flat bed trailers will come equipped with folding or self-storing ramps that allow snowmobiles to be driven on the trailer from the rear for loading and off the trailer in the front for unloading.

Enclosed trailers will have doors in the front and rear that fold down to serve as loading and unloading ramps.

Be sure you have all the proper equipment to attach your trailer to your vehicle, including safety chains, the proper size hitch ball, and the proper electrical connections with lights that are in working condition.

Check the weight limit of your trailer, the amount of required tire pressure, and your vehicle's towing capacity before you start.

**BEFORE** loading the snowmobile, always double check to ensure that the trailer is properly secured to your vehicle's hitch.

This will prevent the trailer from popping up off the hitch when the snowmobile is driven onto the trailer bed, particularly with 2-place trailers.

When securing your snowmobile, avoid using rope or rubber for these can easily fray or break.

After securing the snowmobile, check to be certain the trailers brakes (if the trailer is equipped with brakes), turn indicator, and clearance lights all work.

After the re-check, always cover your snowmobile, if on an open trailer, to protect it while towing.

### Personal Items

Create a kit of personal items, such as:

- driver's license,
- snowmobile safety certification card (if required by your jurisdiction),
- money,

- medications,
- insurance forms for vehicle,
- cell or satellite phone,
- litter bag,
- water,
- high energy food,
- other items you deem important.

This kit should be with you at all times.

### Safety Equipment

Always carry safety equipment on your snowmobile in case of an emergency.

The kit should have:

- a tool kit,
- a knife,
- a compass,
- spark plugs,
- drive belt,
- two straps,
- flares,
- waterproof matches,
- a flashlight with spare batteries (check batteries often)
- an extra ignition key.

A GPS (global positioning system) unit may be helpful in emergency situations.

Add more items to the list for long or overnight snowmobile trips.

### Emergency Kit

This kit includes items necessary for an emergency.

It should include:

- bandages,
- 2-inch compresses,
- 4-inch compresses,
- a roll of 2-inch gauze,
- a roll of 1-inch adhesive tape,
- a thermal/space blanket,
- knife or scissors,
- alcohol wipes,
- antibiotic ointment.

All of which should be stored in a waterproof container.

Do not include liquids that could freeze.

It is highly recommended that a First-Aid and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) course be taken from a certified instructor.

### Notify Reliable Persons

Before you begin your trip, make sure someone knows where you plan to go, with whom you are going, when you are leaving and when you will

return.

If the trip involves an overnight stay, include information on where you will stay and contact numbers.

This is most important since time becomes critical if you experience an accident or an emergency.

It is strongly recommended that you should never snowmobile alone – always ride with a buddy.

### Pre-Ride Checklist

Keep this checklist with you when you ride.

Before you start your machine, check the following:

- Weather forecast,
- your clothing (to ensure appropriate clothing for weather) and the wind chill factor
- Throttle (it should freely return to the idle or closed position)
- Snowmobile (it should be positioned in a clear space free of people or objects)
- Fuel and battery
- Ski assemblies and rods
- Drive belt
  
- General mechanical conditions
- Handlebars (they should turn both ways)
- Emergency kit
- Personal items kit
- Safety equipment

Before you begin your ride, check the following:

- Brakes (they should operate freely and smoothly)
- Headlights and taillights
- Emergency switch
- Idle (slowly run your machine for 30 seconds)