

## **SNOWMOBILE – SAFETY DEVICES**

### Cell Phones

Before you begin your trip, be sure to charge the batteries of your cell phone.

The cell phone should be kept warm, like stored in an inside coat pocket, to help preserve the battery life.

Cell phones often do not work in the remote areas where you may be snowmobiling, so do not rely on a cell phone as your only safety device.

### GPS (Global Positioning System)

A GPS unit can be extremely helpful during your trip.

A GPS unit gives your exact location, which can easily be relayed to emergency personnel.

A GPS runs on batteries, so be sure to check them before you ride, bring some spares with you and keep them warm.

It is helpful to review how the unit works before you ride so you become familiar.

### Lights and Flares

You should never head out onto a trail without a flashlight in your emergency kit.

A strobe light may also be helpful in an emergency situation.

Since flashlights and strobes run on batteries, always check the batteries before you ride, bring extra with you, and keep them warm.

Flares or “pop-ups” can be taken along on your trip for emergency situations. Be sure to follow the instructions to avoid further injury.

### Compass and Maps

A compass is a critical item to have on your trip.

It can be used as a back up to your GPS unit if the battery runs out.

When reading a compass, do not hold it near metal objects. This causes the compass needle to read falsely.

Be sure you become familiar and comfortable using the compass before you ride.

A topographic map is helpful because it shows the landscapes in three dimensions to help you along the way.

### Shovel

A small shovel can be most helpful if you become stuck or stranded.

Many shovels are small enough to store on your sled or to easily carry in a backpack.

Always carry a shovel when riding in avalanche-prone areas.

### Ice Picks

Ice picks should be considered by snowmobilers if traveling near water.

The cord from each pick is threaded through

the sleeves of the jacket, out of the way of your hands, until they are needed.

If you happen to fall through the ice, the picks are right at your wrists covered by your jacket sleeves.

Jam the pointed end of the pick down in the ice.

The pick will anchor you and allow you to pull your body back onto the ice.

## **SNOWMOBILE - TOWING**

Towing a disabled snowmobile

Towing a disabled snowmobile behind your snowmobile calls for extreme caution to avoid injuries and damage to either snowmobile.

Always remove the drive belt from the machine that will be towed

It is recommended you use a rigid tow bar instead of a rope or chain

If you must tow the disabled snowmobile with a tow rope or chain, tie the left ski of the disabled sled tight against the tow snowmobile’s hitch or right rear to keep it from

wandering into oncoming traffic on the trail

It is not recommended that passengers ride on the disabled snowmobile being towed since they can be injured if the snowmobile becomes out of control, or snow or ice chunks are thrown from the track of the tow snowmobile

If passengers must ride on the machine being towed, they should keep their feet on the running boards at all times and help steer and brake during towing.

Always be certain the rear snow flap on the tow snowmobile is in place and properly functioning to avoid injury to the passenger.

When crossing a road, passengers should get off the towed machine and walk across.

The driver of the snowmobile must be very cautious at all times and should always operate at slow speeds.

Use reflectors or flags on both machines while towing to warn others that you are towing/being towed

### Skiers

Skiers should never be towed by a snowmobile. It is difficult to watch the skier and the trail at the same time.

### Inner Tubes/Sleds/Toboggans

Never tow inner tubes, sleds or toboggans. The person being towed generally cannot steer or guide the tube.

Turning corners swings the tube to the outside and can cause injury.

### Cutters

A cutter is a specially designed snowmobile sled with a rigid hitch that is built to carry passengers.

### **This is the only passenger device that can be safely towed behind a snowmobile.**

Slower speeds, increasing the following distance and allowing for greater stopping distances should always be considered when towing passengers.

Always be certain the rear snow flap on the tow snowmobile is in place and properly functioning to avoid injury to the cutter passenger(s).