



Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

News Release/ Communiqué

**FROM/DE: OPP Highway Safety Division
OFSC**

DATE: December 19, 2012

KNOW THE LAW AND GET TRAINED BEFORE YOU RIDE *Safe Snowmobiling Starts with Being Well-Informed*

(ORILLIA, ON) – The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) remind snowmobilers that their safety, peace of mind and enjoyment while sledding this winter start with being compliant with the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act (MSVA) and being properly trained.

Many of the rules governing motor vehicle drivers apply to snowmobile operators, such as speeding, failing to stop at a road crossing and driving with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) that exceeds the legal limit. Failure to comply with the law carries penalties including fines, loss of driver's licence, criminal charges and/or imprisonment.

"A rider whose BAC is between 0.05 and 0.08 (known as the "Warn Range"), can be issued the same 3-day warning that suspends a driver's licence on the road," said OPP Sergeant Lise Grenier, Off Road Safety Program Coordinator of the OPP Highway Safety Division. "This means that on the snow, the offending rider can no longer drive his/her sled to complete their ride." More serious alcohol offences will result in licence suspensions that will prematurely finish a rider's snowmobiling season. Consequences also get tougher for repeat occurrences and riders are reminded that the Ontario Zero Tolerance law for drivers 21 and under also applies to snowmobiles.

To ride legally, snowmobile operators must always carry:

- Valid driver's licence (or if under age 16, a Snow Vehicle Operator's Licence)
- Proof of snowmobile ownership
- Sled registration (including properly placed registration numbers and validation sticker on sled)
- Proof of sled insurance (pink slip)
- Approved snowmobile helmet (for each rider)
- While snowmobiling for recreation on an OFSC Prescribed Trail, a 2013 Snowmobile Trail Permit (properly displayed on the sled) with permit receipt

The OFSC and OPP also advise snowmobilers to get properly trained. The OFSC offers two courses approved by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO): OFSC *Driver Training* is a 6-hour classroom style course for snowmobilers aged 12 years and older. *The Right Way* is an interactive version of Driver Training for adults. Information about both courses is available at ofsc.on.ca.

The OPP is committed to saving lives on Ontario's highways, trails and waterways through the reduction of preventable injury and death. Initiatives are developed and delivered through the Provincial Traffic Safety Program. Visit opp.ca for more information.

The OFSC is committed to proactive leadership in promoting safe, responsible riding, on and off Ontario snowmobile trails, by building safer snowmobiling knowledge, attitudes and behaviours through rider education, safety legislation development and enforcement. For more information, visit ofsc.on.ca.



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Contact: OPP Sgt. Lise Grenier, Coordinator, Off-Road Safety Program
Provincial Support Unit
OPP Highway Safety Division
Phone: (705) 329-6127



OFSC: Jean Noordhoff
Phone: (705) 739-7669 ext. 234