



# YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

January 2011

## Highlights of the Illinois Snowmobile Registration & Safety Act

### From Article 1: Definitions

- Snowmobile - "snowmobile" means a self-propelled device designed for travel on snow or ice or natural terrain, steered by skis or runners, and supported in part by skis, belts, or cleats.
- Operate - "Operate" means to ride in or on, other than as a passenger, use or control the operation of a snowmobile in any manner, whether or not the snowmobile is underway.
- Highway- "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.
- Roadway - "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.
- Cowling - "Cowling" means the forward portions of a snowmobile surrounding the clutch and motor assembly.

### From Article 5: Control Provisions

1. Operation Generally. It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile in the following ways:

- A. At a rate of speed too fast for conditions and the fact that the

speed of the snowmobile does not exceed the applicable maximum speed limit allowed does not relieve the driver from the duty to decrease speed as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person or vehicle or object, within legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

- B. In a careless, reckless or negligent manner.
- C. At any time without at least one lighted headlamp and one lighted tail lamp on the snowmobile.
- D. Within any nature preserve.
- E. On the tracks or right of way of an operating railroad.
- F. In any tree nursery or planting in a manner which damages or destroys growing stock, or creates a substantial risk thereto.
- G. On private property without the written or verbal consent of the owner or lessee.
- H. On the frozen surface of public waters of this State within 100 feet of a person, including a skater not in or upon a snowmobile; within 100 feet of a person engaged in fishing, except at the minimum speed required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile; on an area which has been cleared of snow for skating purposes unless the area is necessary for access to the frozen waters of this State.

- I. Within 100 feet of a dwelling between midnight and 6 a.m. at a speed greater than the minimum speed required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile. This provision would not apply on private property where verbal or written consent of the owner or lessee has been granted to snowmobile upon such private property or frozen waters of this State.

2. Operation on Highways. It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile on a highway in this State except as follows:

- A. On highways other than tollways, interstate highways and fully or limited access-controlled highways snowmobiles may make a direct crossing provided:
- 1) The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing; and
  - 2) The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing a roadway; and
  - 3) The operator yields the right of way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes a hazard.
- B. On highways other than tollways, interstate highways and fully limited access controlled highways

snowmobiles may be operated not less than 10 feet from the roadway and in the same direction as traffic. On such highways, other than State highways, the corporate authorities of a city, village or incorporated town may adopt ordinances providing for variance from the 10 foot separation requirement of this subsection within city, village or town limits. Corporate authorities of a city, village or incorporated town may adopt ordinances providing for trails and regulating snowmobile operation within city, village or town limits.

- C. On highways other than tollways, interstate highways and fully or limited access controlled highways snowmobiles may be operated on roadways when it is necessary to cross a bridge or culvert or when it is impracticable to gain immediate access to an area adjacent to a highway where a snowmobile is to be operated.
- D. Corporate authorities of a city, village or incorporated town may by ordinance designate one or more specific public highways or street within their jurisdiction as egress and ingress routes for the use of snowmobiles. In the event that such public highways or street are under the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois, expressed written consent of the Illinois Department of Transportation shall be required. Corporate authorities acting under the authority of this paragraph D shall erect and maintain signs giving proper notice thereof.
- E. Snowmobiles may be lawfully driven or operated upon those highways where posted by the township road commissioner in townships with a population of less than 5,000 inhabitants. For purposes of this paragraph E,

"highways" are defined as township roads pursuant to Section 2-205 of the Illinois Highway Code.

- 3. Youthful Operators
  - A. No person under 10 years of age may operate a snowmobile, other than machines designed for use by small children primarily as a toy and used only on private property and not on any public use trail.
  - B. Persons at least 10 and less than 12 years of age may operate a snowmobile only if:
    - 1) they are either accompanied on the snowmobile by a parent or guardian or a person at least 16 years of age designated by a parent or guardian.
  - C. Persons at least 12 and less than 16 years of age may operate a snowmobile only if:
    - 1) they are accompanied on the snowmobile by a parent or guardian or a person at least 16 years of age designated by a parent or guardian or
    - 2) such snowmobile operator is in possession of a snowmobile Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Natural Resources Office of Land Management and Education, authorizing the holder to operate snowmobiles.
  - D. Any person who operates a snowmobile on a highway as provided in Article 5 shall (a) possess a safety a valid motor vehicle driver's license; or (b) possess a safety certificate as provided for in the Section. Any such person less than 16 years of age shall also be under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by the parent or guardian.
  - E. Violations of this Section done with the knowledge of a parent or guardian shall be deemed a violation by the parent or

guardian and punishable under Article X of this Act (625 ILCS 40/10-1).

- 4. Operation on Ice  
Snowmobiles may be operated on the frozen waters of this state subject to the general operation control provisions.
- 5. Other Prohibitions
  - A. No person, except persons permitted by law, shall operate or ride any snowmobile with any firearm in his possession unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung in a carrying case.
  - B. No person shall deposit from a snowmobile on the snow, ice or ground surface, trash, glass, garbage, insoluble material or other offensive matter.
  - C. No person shall use a snowmobile to take, pursue or intentionally harass or disturb wildlife, except such restrictions shall not apply to a person acting to protect live stock from predatory animals.
- 6. Operating a snowmobile Under the Influence of Alcohol or Other Drug (OUI)  
No person shall operate a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol or any other drug to the degree which renders him/her incapable of safely operating such snowmobile, or who has any amount of drug, substance or compound in his/her blood or urine resulting from the unlawful use or consumption of cannabis as defined in the Cannabis Control Act or a controlled substance listed in the Illinois Controlled Substance Act.



Find more information about snowmobiling in Illinois at [www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/Snowmobile/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/Snowmobile/index.html).