

Weather/Trail Safety

- * Become familiar with the trail and recognize trail conditions. Obstacles change on a daily basis.
- * Always be alert to avoid fences and low strung wires.
- * Always check the weather conditions before you depart.
- * Be aware of unmarked hazards or obstacles hidden beneath the snow.

For more information visit www.mgh.org/trauma/snowmobile.pdf



Snowmobile Safety



- * **MACHINE**
- * **OPERATOR**
- * **WEATHER**
- * **TRAIL**



Snowmobile Safety

There are 6,400 miles of groomed trails in Michigan. As the interest and participation in this sport grows, so does the risk for injury and death. Although the incidence of alcohol involvement in snowmobile deaths is well documented, especially in 19-34 year old males, many snowmobilers do operate their machines in a safe, sober and courteous manner. Safe operation of a snowmobile starts long before one gets on the machine and turns the key. The key to safe operation is knowing your machine using good judgment, and being courteous. Here is a list of things to be aware of:

Machine Safety

- * Always keep your machine in top mechanical condition.
- * Be familiar with machine and it's limits.



Operator Safety

- * Always wear proper protective clothing, helmet, gloves and eye protection.
- * Never ride alone.
- * Avoid, when possible, crossing frozen bodies of water.
- * Never ride in a single file when crossing frozen bodies of water.
- * Never ride on a street or highway.
- * When coming to an intersection, come to a complete stop, raise off the seat and look for traffic.
- * Reduce speeds when coming to corners.
- * At night, wear reflective clothing and reduce your speed.
- * Tell someone your plans.
- * Do not use alcohol or other drugs.

Weather changes daily as do trail conditions. Be aware of this, a newly fallen tree can cause injury. New snowfall leads to powdery snow conditions and decreased visibility. Extreme temperatures can lead to hardening of the snow causing new ruts or divots in the snow.