

CHAPTER 73: SNOWMOBILES

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§ 73.01 INCORPORATION OF STATE STATUTE.

Any person operating a snowmobile within the city, unless provided otherwise in this chapter, shall be subject to the provisions of M.S. § 84.81 through 84.911, inclusive, as they may be amended from time to time, and the regulations of the Commissioner of Natural Resources (Commissioner), adopted pursuant thereto.

(Prior Code, § 610.01)

§ 73.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

CITY. The City of Greenfield, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner of Natural Resources acting directly or through his or her authorized agent.

COUNCIL. The City Council of the City of Greenfield.

DEADMAN THROTTLE or **SAFETY THROTTLE.** A device which when pressure is removed from the engine acceleration or throttle, causes the motor to be disengaged from the driving mechanism.

OPERATION. To ride in or on, and control the operation of a snowmobile.

OPERATOR. Every person who operates, or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.

PERSON. An individual, partnership, corporation, the state and its agencies and subdivisions, and any body of persons, whether incorporated or not.

PUBLIC PROPERTY.

(1) Property that may be used for all of the public subject to reasonable regulations by a governmental body.

(2) The property includes city parks, city parking lots and public school parking lots and grounds.

ROADWAY. The portion of a street or highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

SEMI-PUBLIC PROPERTY. Private property generally for use by the public but not owned or maintained by a governmental body. The property includes without limitation: church property; shopping center property; and other property generally used by patrons of a commercial or private business establishment.

SNOWMOBILE. A self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice steered by skis or runners.

STREET or HIGHWAY. The entire width between boundary lines of any way or place when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purpose of vehicular traffic.
(Prior Code, § 610.02)

§ 73.03 LIMITATION OF OPERATIONS.

Snowmobiles may be operated only in the following locations within the city:

(A) On the operator's property subject to the provisions of this chapter;

(B) On privately owned property if the operator has permission from the property owner; or, on privately owned property if the property owner has posted a clearly visible notice indicating "Snowmobiles Allowed" or words substantially similar;

(C) On trunk highways, county state aid roads or county roads as regulated by the State of Minnesota or the County of Hennepin;

(D) On city streets only when the operation is necessary to gain access to designated snowmobile trails, private property or areas which, by Minnesota Statutes, may be used by snowmobiles provided that:

(1) Their use of any street is as a means of traveling in as direct a route as practicable to a destination for the use of snowmobiles;

(2) They use the most right-hand lane available for traffic or as close as practicable to the edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle stopped in that lane or proceeding in the same direction; and,

(3) They not exceed the posted speed limit; and

(E) On public or semi-public property only if clearly posted with signs designating the area or specific areas as snowmobile operating areas or trails.

(Prior Code, § 610.03) Penalty, see § 73.99

§ 73.04 OPERATION GENERALLY.

(A) No person under 14 years of age shall make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state aid or county highway as the operator of a snowmobile, or operate a snowmobile upon a street or highway within a municipality.

(B) A person 14 years of age or older, but less than 18 years of age, may make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state aid, or county highway only if he or she has in his or her immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the Commissioner.

(C) No person under the age of 14 years shall operate a snowmobile on any public land or water under jurisdiction of the Commissioner unless accompanied by 1 of the following listed persons on the same or an accompanying snowmobile: his or her parent; legal guardian; or other person 18 years of age or older. However, a person 12 years of age or older may operate a snowmobile on public lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the Commission if he or she has in his or her immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the Commissioner.

(D) A person operating a snowmobile shall stop at all intersections.

(E) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile in the following unsafe or harassing ways:

(1) At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all the surrounding circumstances;

(2) In a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto;

(3) In any tree nursery or planting area in a manner which damages or destroys growing stock; or

(4) In a manner so as to create a loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which disturbs annoys or interferes with the peace and quiet of other persons.

(Prior Code, § 610.04) Penalty, see § 73.99

§ 73.05 EQUIPMENT.

It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile any place within the limits of the city unless it is equipped with the following.

(A) (1) Standard mufflers which are properly attached and in constant operation and which reduce the noise of operation of the motor to the minimum necessary for operation.

(2) Mufflers shall comply with Department of Natural Resources Regulation CONS 55 which is hereby adopted by reference as it existed on 9-1-1970.

(3) No person shall use a muffler cutout by-pass, straight pipe or similar device on snowmobile motors and the exhaust system shall not emit or produce a sharp popping or cracking sound.

(B) Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the snowmobile under any conditions of operation.

(C) A safety of so-called "deadman's" throttle in operating condition so that when pressure is removed from the accelerator or throttle, the motor is disengaged from the driving track.

(D) At least 1 clear lamp attached to the front, with sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions. The head lamp shall be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of an oncoming vehicle operator. It shall also be equipped with at least 1 red tail lamp having a minimum candle power of sufficient intensity to exhibit a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions. The equipment to be in operating condition when the vehicle is operated between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise or at times of reduced visibility.

(E) Reflective material at least 16 square inches on each sides forward of the handlebars so as to reflect or beam light at a 90-degree angle.
(Prior Code, § 610.05) Penalty, see § 73.99

§ 73.06 OWNER RESPONSIBILITY.

It shall be unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit the snowmobile to be operated contrary to the provisions of this chapter.
(Prior Code, § 610.06) Penalty, see § 73.99

§ 73.07 LEAVING SNOWMOBILE UNATTENDED.

Every person leaving a snowmobile in a public place shall lock the ignition, remove the key and take the same with him or her.
(Prior Code, § 610.07) Penalty, see § 73.99

§ 73.08 CHASING ANIMALS FORBIDDEN.

It shall be unlawful to intentionally drive, chase, run over or kill any animal, wild or domestic, with a snowmobile.
(Prior Code, § 610.08) Penalty, see § 73.99

§ 73.09 CITY AND STATE TRAFFIC ORDINANCES.

City and state laws shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles upon street and highways in the city.
(Prior Code, § 610.09) Penalty, see § 73.99

§ 73.99 PENALTY.

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter or state law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 90 days.
(Prior Code, § 610.10)