

Chapter 70, Article V



Snowmobiles

We recommend you keep a copy of this ordinance with you while you are snowmobiling.

Sec. 70-140. - Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Operate means to ride in or on and control the operation of a snowmobile.

Operator means every person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.

Owner means a person, other than a lienholder having the property in or title to snowmobile entitled to the use or possession thereof.

Person includes an individual, partnership, corporation, the state and its agencies and subdivisions, and any body of persons, whether incorporated or not.

Roadway means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Snowmobile means a self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice steered by skis or runners.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 1, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-141. - Lawful operation of snowmobiles.

(a) Except as herein specifically permitted and authorized, it is only lawful for a person to operate a snowmobile within the corporate limits of the city:

(1) Upon and within the City street right-of-way.

(2) Upon private property or upon lands not belonging to the operator of such vehicle with the expressed permission of the landowner or other person entitled to the use and possession of such property provided that in the case of oral permission, the landowner or other person entitled to the use and possession of the property is present.

(b) Operation of a snowmobile on public property not under the jurisdiction of the city is subject to the regulation of the public entity having jurisdiction upon said property.

(1) Operation of a snowmobile upon the right-of-way of any state highway within the city is subject to the regulations of the state department of transportation.

(2) Operation of snowmobile upon the right-of-way of any county road within the city is subject to the regulations of the county highway department.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 2, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-142. - Crossing streets.

A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street or highway, except an interstate highway or freeway, provided that:

(1) The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the street or highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.

(2) The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way.

(3) The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard.

(4) In crossing a divided street or highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such street or highway with another public street or highway.

(5) If the crossing is made between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, both front and rear lights must be on.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 3, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-143. - Operation of snowmobile upon streets.

City traffic ordinances shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles upon streets and highways, except for those relating to required equipment, and except those which by their nature have no application.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 4, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-144. - Entering intersections.

No snowmobile shall enter any intersection without yielding the right-of-way to any vehicles or pedestrians at the intersection, or so close to the intersection as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 5, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-145. - Underage operation of snowmobile.

- (a) No person under 14 years of age shall operate on streets or the roadway surface of highways or make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state-aid, county highway, or city street as the operator of a snowmobile. A person 14 years of age or older, but less than 18 years of age, may operate a snowmobile on streets and highways as permitted under this article and make a direct crossing of such streets and highways only if he has in his immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner.
- (b) It is unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit the snowmobile to be operated contrary to the provisions of this section.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 6, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-146. - Unlawful operation of snowmobile in city limits.

It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile within the limits of the city:

- (1) At any place, while under the influence of alcohol or drugs as defined in Minn. Stats. § 169A.01 et seq., which is hereby incorporated herein by reference;
- (2) At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all surrounding circumstances;
- (3) At any place in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner or heedlessly in disregard of the rights or safety of others or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger or cause injury or damage to any person or property;
- (4) During the hours from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. of any day, closer than 100 feet to any dwelling which is usually occupied by one or more persons;
- (5) So as to tow any person or thing in a public street or highway except through use of a rigid tow bar attached to the rear of the snowmobile;
- (6) Within 100 feet of any fisherman, pedestrian, skating rink or sliding area where the operation would conflict with use or endanger other persons or property.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 7, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-147. - Unlawful operation of snowmobile unless equipped.

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

- (1) Standard mufflers which are properly attached and which reduce the noise of operation of the motor to the minimum necessary for operation. No person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass, straight pipe or similar device on a snowmobile motor.
- (2) Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the snowmobile under any condition of operation.
- (3) A safety or so-called "dead-man" throttle in operating condition. A safety or "dead-man" throttle is defined as a device which, when pressure is removed from the engine accelerator or throttle, causes the motor to be disengaged from the driving track.
- (4) When operated between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or at times of reduced visibility, at least one 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. Such headlamp shall be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of an oncoming snowmobile operator. It shall also be

equipped with at least one red tail light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions.

- (5) Running lights or reflective material at least 16 square inches on each side, forward of the handlebars, so as to reflect or beam light at a 90-degree angle.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 8, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-148. - Leaving unattended.

Every person leaving a snowmobile on a public place shall lock the ignition, remove the key and take the same with them.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 9, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-149. - Operation on public thoroughfare in emergency.

Notwithstanding any prohibitions in this article, a snowmobile may be operated on a public thoroughfare in an emergency during the period of time when, and at locations where, snow upon the roadway renders travel by automobile impractical.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 10, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-150. - Killing animal prohibited.

It is unlawful to intentionally drive, chase, run over or kill any animal with a snowmobile.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 11, 3-2-2005)

Sec. 70-151. - Penalty.

Every person convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this article shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as provided in section 1-14, and be required to complete eight hours of community service for each violation. Violators will be responsible for all costs of prosecution.

(Ord. No. 44B, § 12, 3-2-2005)



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Please contact **East Bethel City Hall** with any questions in regards to this ordinance.

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