

CHAPTER 73 SNOWMOBILES, ATV'S, AND OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

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§ 73.01 INTENT

It is the intent of this chapter to supplement M.S. §§ 84.771 to 84.91, and M.S. Chapter 169, and Minn. Rules parts 6100.5000 through 6100.6000 and parts 6102.0002 to 6102.0080, with respect to the operation of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, utility task vehicles, and off-highway motorcycles. These statutes and rules are incorporated herein by reference. This section is not intended to allow what the state statutes and rules prohibit, nor to prohibit what the state statutes and rules allow. (Ord. 785, 5/6/2024; Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)

§ 73.02 DEFINITIONS

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

All-Terrain Vehicle. A motorized flotation-tired vehicle of not less than three (3) low pressure tires, but not more than six (6) low pressure tires, that is limited in engine displacement of less than eight hundred (800) cubic centimeters and total dry weight less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) pounds.

Deadman Throttle or Safety Throttle. A device which, when pressure is removed from the engine accelerator or throttle, causes the motor to be disengaged from the driving mechanism.

Golf Cart. A motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding 20 miles per hour.

Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM)

A motorized, off-highway vehicle traveling on two wheels and having a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control, including a vehicle that is registered under chapter M.S. § 168 for highway use when it is used for off-highway operation on trails or unimproved terrain.

Off-Highway Vehicle.

An off-highway motorcycle, an off-road vehicle, golf cart, or an all-terrain vehicle.

Off-Road vehicle.

A motor-driven recreational vehicle capable of cross-country travel on natural terrain without benefit of a road or trail. Off-road vehicle does not include a snowmobile; an all-terrain vehicle; a motorcycle; a watercraft; a farm vehicle being used for farming; a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes; a construction or logging vehicle used in the performance of its common function; a motor vehicle owned by or operated under contract with a utility, whether publicly or privately owned, when used for work on utilities; a commercial vehicle being used for its intended purpose; snow-grooming equipment when used for its intended purpose; or an aircraft.

Operate. To ride in or on and control the operation of a snowmobile or off-highway vehicle.

Operator. Every person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle, or off-highway vehicle.

Owner. A person, other than a lien holder having the property in or title to a snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle, or entitled to the use or possession thereof.

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

Right-Of-Way. The entire strip of land traversed by a highway or street in which the public owns the fee or an easement for roadway purposes.

Roadway. That portion of a highway or street improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

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

Street. A public thoroughfare, roadway, alley or trail used for motor vehicular traffic which is not an interstate, trunk, county-state aid, or county highway.

Utility Task Vehicle. Any side-by-side, four-wheel drive, off-road vehicle that has four wheels, is propelled by an internal combustion engine with a piston displacement capacity of 2,000 cubic centimeters or less, and has a total dry weight of less than 4,000 pounds. (Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)

§ 73.03 APPLICATION OF TRAFFIC ORDINANCES

The provisions of Chapter 70 of this code shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, utility task vehicles, and off-highway vehicles upon streets and highways, except for those relating to required equipment, and except those which by their nature have no application. Penalty, see § 70.99. (Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)

§ 73.04 SNOWMOBILE RESTRICTIONS

(A) It is unlawful for any person to enter, operate or stop a snowmobile within the limits of the city:

(1) On the roadway of any street, except the most right hand lane then available for traffic or as close as practicable to right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle stopped in the lane or proceeding in the same direction, or in making a left turn. Snowmobiles may also be operated upon the outside slope of trunk, county-state aid and county highways where the highways are so configured within the corporate limits.

(2) On a public sidewalk or trail provided for pedestrian travel. (Ord. 529, passed November 16, 2009)

(3) On boulevards within any public right-of-way.

(4) On private property, unless

(a) specific permission of the owner or person in control of the property is obtained.

(b) operation of the snowmobile is no closer than 50 feet from any lot boundary line.

(c) no more than two snowmobiles are simultaneously used.

(d) snowmobiles are used between the hours of 10am and 5pm, for no more than two consecutive hours

(5) Upon any school grounds, except as permission is expressly obtained from responsible school authorities.

(6) On public property, playgrounds and recreation areas, except areas previously listed or authorized for the use by resolution of the City Council, in which case the use shall be lawful, and snowmobiles may be driven in and out of those areas by the shortest route.

(7) On streets as permitted by this chapter at a speed exceeding ten miles per hour.

(B) It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile within the limits of the city: (Ord. 529, 11-16-2009)

(1) 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; provided, that a disabled snowmobile may be towed to a private residence or a place of business where snowmobiles are repaired without the use of a rigid tow bar.

(2) Within 100 feet of any fisherman, pedestrian, skating rink or sliding area where the operation would conflict with use or endanger other persons or operation.

(3) To intentionally drive, chase, run over or kill any animal.

Penalty, see § 70.99.

(C) It is unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit the snowmobile to be operated contrary to the provision of this section. Penalty, see § 70.99

(D) **SNOWMOBILE STOPPING AND YIELDING**No snowmobile shall enter any uncontrolled intersection without making a complete stop. The operator shall then yield the right-of-way to any vehicles or pedestrians at the intersection, or so close to the intersection as to constitute an immediate hazard. Penalty, see § 70.99

(E) **PERSONS UNDER 18 AND SNOWMOBILES.** No person under 14 years of age shall operate on streets or make a direct crossing of a 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 as permitted under this chapter and make a direct crossing of those streets only if he or she has in his or her immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued pursuant to M.S. § 84.872, as it may be amended from time to time.

(F) **UNATTENDED SNOWMOBILES** Every person leaving a snowmobile on a public place shall lock the ignition, remove the key and take the same with him or her. Penalty, see § 70.99

(G) **EMERGENCY OPERATION PERMITTED OF SNOWMOBILES.** Notwithstanding any prohibitions in this chapter, a snowmobile may be operated on a public thoroughfare in an emergency during the period of time and at locations where snow upon the roadway renders travel by automobile impractical.

73.05 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE, UTILITY TASK VEHICLES, AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS
(Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)

(A) It is unlawful for any person to operate an all-terrain vehicle, utility task vehicle, or off-highway vehicle within the limits of the city: (Ord. 529, 11-16-2009; Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)

(1) 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 machine; provided, that a disabled machine may be towed to a private residence or a place of business where all-terrain vehicles are repaired without the use of a rigid tow bar.

(2) Within 100 feet of any fisherman, pedestrian, skating rink or skating park where the operation would conflict with use or endanger other persons or operation.

(3) To intentionally drive, chase, run over or kill any animal.
Penalty, see § 70.99.

(B) It is unlawful for any person to operate any all-terrain vehicle, utility vehicle or off-highway vehicle: (Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)

- (1) On the roadway of any street.
- (2) On a public sidewalk or trail provided for pedestrian travel.
- (3) On boulevards within any public right-of-way.
- (4) Off of driveways and parking lots on private property of another or on school grounds without specific permission of the owner or person in control of the property.
- (5) Off of driveways and parking lots on public property, playgrounds, and recreation areas, except areas previously listed or authorized for the use by resolution of the City Council, in which case the use shall be lawful and permitted off-highway vehicles may be driven in and out of those areas by the shortest route.
- (6) On private property, unless
 - (a) specific permission of the owner or person in control of the property is obtained.
 - (b) operation of the all-terrain, utility task vehicle, or off-highway vehicle is no closer than 50 feet from any lot boundary line. *(Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)*
 - (c) no more than two all-terrain, utility task vehicles, and off-highway vehicles are simultaneously used. *(Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)*
 - (d) all-terrain, utility task vehicles and off-highway vehicles are used between the hours of 10am and 5pm, for no more than two consecutive hours
 - (e) exception: all-terrain, utility task vehicles and off-highway vehicles may be used for tasks directly related to snow-plowing and routine yard maintenance. *(Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)*
- (7) Upon any school grounds, except as permission is expressly obtained from responsible school authorities.
- (8) On public property, playgrounds and recreation areas.

§ 73.06 EQUIPMENT

It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, utility task vehicle or off-highway vehicle any place within the limits of the City of Cambridge unless it is equipped with the

following: (Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)

- (A) 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, by-pass straight pipe or similar device on a snowmobile motor.
- (B) Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, utility task vehicle, or off-highway vehicle under any condition of operation. (Ord. 792, 10/7/2024)
- (C) A deadman throttle in operating condition.
- (D) 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. The head lamp 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 light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear during hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions.
- (E) Reflective material at least 16 square inches on each side, forward of the handlebars and at the highest practical point on any towed object, so as to reflect lights at a 90 degree angle. Penalty, see § 70.99.

§ 73.07 EXEMPTIONS FROM PROVISIONS

Any Public Safety Agency providing enforcement or protection, shall be exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

§ 73.08 VIOLATION; PENALTY

Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in this code.