

Chapter 20
SNOWMOBILES

Art. I. In General, Sections 01 through 15

Art. II. Operation of Snowmobile, Sections 16 through 34

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Section 01. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

Commissioner: Shall mean the Commissioner of Conservation acting directly or through his authorized agent.

Operate: Shall mean to ride in or on and control the operation of a snowmobile.

Operator: Shall mean every person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.

Owner: Shall mean a person, other than a lien holder, having the property in or title to a snowmobile entitled to the use or possession thereof.

Person: Shall include an individual, partnership, corporation, the State and its agencies and subdivisions, and any body of persons, whether incorporated or not.

Register: Shall mean the act of assigning a registration number to a snowmobile.

Snowmobile: Shall mean a self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice or a natural terrain, steered by wheels, skis or runners. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 1, 1/27/69)

Section 02. Incorporation of State law by preference.

The provisions of the Highway Traffic Regulation Act (Minnesota Statutes, 1971, Chapter 169), except for those portions relating to required equipment and except those which by their nature have no application, and the Minnesota Statutes 1971, Sections 84.81 through 84.89, and all laws supplemental or amendatory thereto, and any and all rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Highways and Commissioner of Conservation pursuant to said laws, are hereby applicable to snowmobiles and are hereby incorporated in and made apart of this chapter as completely as if set out here in full. (Ord. No. 184, Sec. 4, 1/27/69)

Section 03. Applicability of local traffic ordinances.

All 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.

Section 04. "Deadman" throttle required.

Every snowmobile operated within the City shall be equipped with a safety or so-called "deadman" throttle in operating condition. A "safety" or "deadman" 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.

Section 05. Lights required.

No snowmobile shall be operated any place within the City limits unless it is equipped with at least (1) headlamp and one (1) tail lamp. (Ord. No.184, Secs. 3, 5, 1/27/69)

Section. 06. Brakes.

No snowmobile shall be operated within the City unless it is equipped with brakes, which conform to standards prescribed by rule of the Commissioner of Highways. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 3, 1/27/69)

Section 07. Mufflers.

Every snowmobile shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order which blends the exhaust noise into the overall vehicle noise and is in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. No person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device. The exhaust system shall not emit or produce a sharp popping or cracking sound. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 3, 1/27/69)

Sections 08 through 15. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILE

Section 16. Operation generally.

Except as herein specifically permitted and authorized, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile within the limits of the City:

- a. On the portion of any right-of-way of any public highway, street, road, trail or alley used for motor vehicle travel, except the extreme right-hand lane (except in passing) which is used for vehicular traffic in the same direction, other than on freeways, interstate, trunk, County state-aid or County highways. Snowmobiles may also be operated upon the ditch bottom where lawfully so posted or the outside bank of trunk, County state-aid and County highways where such highways are so configured within the City limits.
- b. On a public sidewalk provided for pedestrian travel.
- c. On boulevards within any public right-of-way.
- d. On private property of another without specific permission of the owner or person in control of the property.
- e. On any other public place except as may be specifically permitted by City ordinance.

Section 17. Youthful operators regulated; snowmobile owner's liability.

a. No person under fourteen (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 fourteen (14) years of age or older, but less than eighteen (18) years age, may operate a snowmobile on the streets and highways as permitted under this chapter and make 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 shall be unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit the snowmobile to be operated contrary to the provisions of this section.

Section 18. Operation during certain hours prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile within the limits of the City anytime between 11 :00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 3, 1/27/69; Ord. No. 184.2, Sec. 1 12/15/70; Ord. No.560, Sec. 1, 10/31/94)

Section 19. Streets where snowmobiling prohibited.

a. No snowmobile shall be operated at any time whatsoever upon any of the portions of the following described public streets within the City:

County state-aid Highways Nos. 10, 11, 14, and 17;
Trunk Highways Nos. 212 and 41 ;
Second Street from Pine Street to Walnut Street;
Third Street from Pine Street to Walnut Street;
Fourth Street from Cedar Street to Beech Street;
Fifth Street from Chestnut Street to Walnut Street;
Beech Street from Fourth Street to Stoughton Avenue;
Cedar Street from Trunk Highway No.212 to Fourth Street;
Stoughton Avenue from Beech Street to the east corporate limits.

b. No person shall operate a snowmobile upon the roadway of any street or highway except for the purpose of direct travel from the person's home to the closest legally permissible snowmobile area by the shortest possible route and then only if travel on the adjacent street or highway right-of-way is allowed under this Ordinance. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 3, 1/27/69; Ord. No. 184.1, Sec. 1,12/4/69; Ord. No.560, Sec. 2, 10/31/94)

Section 20. Operation on dikes prohibited; exception.

a. No snowmobile shall be operated on any portion or segment of the following dikes:

1. Constructed along Chaska West Creek;
2. Running from First Street easterly to the Sewage Disposal Plant;
3. Running from the Sewage Disposal Plant to Chaska East Creek; and
4. Running easterly and northerly along Chaska East Creek.

b. The dikes enumerated above may be crossed at the following street locations:

1. Pine Street; and
2. Hickory Street.

(Ord. No.184, Sec. 3, 1/27/69; Ord. No.184.1, Sec. 1, 12/4/69)

Section 21. Operation in parks.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any snowmobile in any public park in the City of Chaska except that when operating a snowmobile for the purpose set forth in Section 19 (b) of this chapter of the Code of Ordinances, Chaska, Minnesota, a snowmobile may be operated within a public park but only within the confines of a designated route or trail as marked by the Chaska Police Department and in accordance with such other operational rules and regulations as determined by the City Council and enforced by the Chaska Police Department, which rules and regulations shall be posted on such trails or routes. (Ord. No.230, Sec. 2,12/15/75)

Section 22. Crossing street at point other than intersection.

A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street or highway at a point other than at a highway or street intersection, except an interstate highway or freeway, provided:

- a. The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety (90) degrees to the direction of the street or highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- b. The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main-traveled way.
- c. The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard.
- d. 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.
- e. If the crossing is made between the hours of one-half (1/2) hour after sunset to one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise, or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on.

Section 23. Entering Intersections.

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

Section 24. Operation on public thoroughfare in emergency.

Notwithstanding any prohibitions in this chapter, a snowmobile may be operated upon a public street or alley in an emergency, during the period of time when and at locations where snow upon the street or alley renders travel by automobile impractical. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 3, 1/27/69)

Section 25. Operating while under influence of alcohol, drugs.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile within the limits of the City at any place while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 5, 1/27/69)

Section 26. Speed on public streets and other locations.

No snowmobile shall be operated on a street or highway within the City at a speed exceeding ten (10) miles per hour, nor at any other location exceeding twenty (20) miles per hour. (Ord. No.184, Sec.5, 1/27/69; Ord. No.560, Sec. 3, 10/31/94)

Section 27. Operator responsibility when flagged by authorized personnel.

An operator shall bring his snowmobile to a stop and switch off the engine when flagged by a police officer or duly authorized uniformed snow patrol member. (Ord. No.560, Sec. 4,10/31/94)

Section 28. Careless, reckless, negligent operation unlawful.

It shall be unlawful to operate a snowmobile in the City 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 danger or be likely to endanger or cause injury or damage to any person or property. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 5, 1/27/69)

Section 29. Operation in a manner which disturbs the peace.

It shall be unlawful to operate a snowmobile in such manner as to create loud and excessive noise or in any way which shall unduly disturb the peace and privacy of the residents of the City or in any manner create a public nuisance thereby. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 5, 1/27/69)

Section 30. Operation in tree nurseries.

No snowmobile shall be operated in any tree nursery or planting in a manner which damages or destroys growing stock. (Ord. No.184, Sec. 5, 1/27/69)

Section 31. Operation near fishermen, pedestrians, skating rink, sliding area.

It shall be unlawful to operate a snowmobile in the City within one hundred (100) feet of any fisherman, pedestrian, skating rink or sliding area where the operation would conflict with such use or endanger other persons or property.

Section 32. Riding abreast.

It shall be unlawful to operate a snowmobile upon the public streets abreast of one (1) or more other snowmobiles, except in passing.

Section 33. Unlawful to drive, chase, run over or kill animals.

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

Section 34. Parking procedure.

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