

Section 1015 – ATV’s, Special Vehicles and Snowmobiles

Section 1015:00. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Special Vehicles.

Subd. 1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms are defined as follows:

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV): A Motorized vehicle as defined by Minnesota Statutes Section 84.92 Subd. 8 as may be revised.

Special Vehicle: A motorized golf cart, utility task vehicle, or mini truck, all as may be defined in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 169 and successor statutes as may be revised.

Subd. 2. Unauthorized Use. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), or Special Vehicle on any public roadway, sidewalk, boulevard, park or city owned property, or on any private property without specific permission of the owner or person in control of said property.

Subd. 3. Authorized Use. Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in Subd. 2, an ATV or Special Vehicle may be operated on a public roadway in an emergency when and at such locations where the conditions of the roadway render travel by an automobile impractical, and if the ATV or Special Vehicle has the following equipment:

- A. Brakes adequate to control the ATV and to stop and hold the ATV or Special Vehicle under any condition of operation.
- B. A safety or so-called “deadman” throttle in good operating condition.
- C. A headlamp and tail lamp as defined and specified whereby when operated between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise, or at times of reduced visibility, at least one clear headlamp attached to the front, with sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet ahead during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions. Such head lamp shall be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of an oncoming operator. It shall also be equipped with at least one red tail lamp having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to exhibit a red light plainly visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear during hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions. The head and taillight must be functioning anytime the ATV or Special Vehicle is being operated.
- D. A pennant flag of red or blaze material, of a size not less than twelve (12) inches by nine (9) inches, at a height of not less than six (6) feet from the ground level at any time when the vehicle is operated on public streets.

- E. Reflector material of a minimum area of sixteen (16) square inches mounted on each side forward of the handlebars.
- F. A sled, trailer, or other device being towed must be equipped with reflective materials as required by rule of the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Subd. 4. Authorized Use. Operation of a motorized golf cart on city streets is permitted with permit obtained from the Police Department. Certain safety standards must be met to obtain permit.

Section 1015:01. Snowmobiles.

Subd. 1. Scope of Application. Notwithstanding provisions of this Chapter to the contrary, this Section shall apply to control of traffic and regulation of that certain class of vehicles falling within the definition of snowmobiles as to matters set forth herein. All provisions of this Chapter, not relating to matters herein stated, apply as equally to snowmobiles as other vehicles.

Subd. 2. Unauthorized Use. Except as herein specifically permitted and authorized, it is unlawful to operate a snowmobile within the corporate limits of this municipality:

- A. On the portion of any right of way of any public highway, bridge, street, road, trail or alley used for motor vehicle travel, except on the right-hand side of said right-of-way and in the same direction as vehicular traffic on the nearest lane of the roadway adjacent thereto, other than on freeways, interstate, trunk, county state-aid, or county highways. Snowmobiles may also be operated upon the ditch bottom or otherwise of trunk, county state-aid and county highways where such highways are so configured within the corporate limits.
- B. At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all surrounding circumstances; and when operated on public roadways, in no case greater than the posted speed limit.
- C. In a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto.
- D. During the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. of any day, closer than one hundred (100) feet to any dwelling which is usually occupied by one or more persons, except while returning home by direct route.
- E. So as to tow any person or thing in a public street or highway, except if attached by a rigid frame hitch and no more than thirty-six (36) inches shall be allowed between towed vehicle and rear of snowmobile.

- F. Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in this Subdivision, a snowmobile may be operated on a public thoroughfare in an emergency that renders travel by an automobile impractical.

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- G. It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile on a public sidewalk, on boulevards, or above the curb, in any public park, path, recreation area, wetlands or storm water holding ponds including pond slopes, or on private property without specific permission of the owner or person in control of said property.

Subd. 3. Crossings. A snowmobile may be operated across a street or highway only as herein set forth, and it is unlawful to do so otherwise.

- A. The crossing shall be made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees with the direction of the street or highway, and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- B. The snowmobile shall be brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way.
- C. The driver shall yield the right of way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard; in crossing a divided street, the crossing shall be made only at an intersection of such street or highway with another public street or highway; and,
- D. If the crossing is made between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, or during conditions of reduced visibility, it shall be made only if both front and rear lights are on and in operating condition.

Subd. 4. Intersection. It is unlawful to enter any intersection with a snowmobile without yielding the right of way to any other vehicles or pedestrians at the intersection, or so close to the intersection as to constitute an immediate hazard.

Subd. 5. Operators.

- A. No person under fourteen (14) years of age shall operate a snowmobile on a street or make a direct crossing of a trunk highway, county state aid or county highway, or other street. A person fourteen years of age or older, but less than eighteen (18) years of age, may operate a snowmobile on streets and highways as permitted by this Section and make such direct crossings of streets and highways only if he has in his immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the Commissioner, as provided by MN Statute Section 84.872.
- B. It is unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit its operation in violation of this Subdivision.

Subd. 6. Prohibitions. It is unlawful for any person to leave a snowmobile in a public place without locking the ignition, removing the key, and taking the key away from the snowmobile. No person may intentionally drive, chase, run over or kill any animal with a snowmobile.

Subd. 7. Equipment. It is unlawful to operate a snowmobile unless it is equipped as follows:

- 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 under any condition of operation.
- C. 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 throttle, causes the motor to be disengaged from the driving track.
- D. When operated between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise, or at times of reduced visibility, at least one clear head lamp attached to the front, with sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet ahead during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions. Such 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 tail lamp having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to exhibit a red light plainly visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear during hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions. The head and taillight must be functioning anytime the snowmobile is being operated.
- E. A pennant flag of red or blaze material, of a size not less than twelve (12) inches by nine (9) inches, at a height of not less than six (6) feet from the ground level at any time when the vehicle is operated on public streets.
- F. Running lights or reflective material at least sixteen (16) square inches on each side, forward of the handlebars so as to reflect or beam light at a ninety-degree angle.

Section 1015 – Snowmobiles of the 1974 Code of Ordinances was amended and repealed in its entirety by Ordinance Number 350, passed and adopted March 16, 2004 and published April 13, 2004.

Section 1015 of the 1974 Code of Ordinances was amended by Ordinance Number 407, adopted November 6, 2012 and published December 18, 2012.

Section 1015 of the 1974 Code of Ordinances was amended authorizing use of motorized golf carts with permit obtained from Police Dept by Ordinance Number 409, passed and adopted May 7, 2013 and published May 28, 2013.