

# Safe snowmobiling

Instructor Guide

## Safety Talk Overview:

**What & Why?** Safety Talks are a method to refresh an employee’s knowledge and skills, maintain their interest in safety and illustrate the organization’s commitment to creating a healthy & safe work environment.

**Who & When?** Generally, these Safety Talk meetings are led by a supervisor, member of the JHSC, or Worker H&S Representative and should be mandatory for all crew members to attend. The content should be focused on a single topic. Safety Talks can be performed on a weekly basis or before the start of a new scope of work and should be about 15 minutes in duration.

go2HR developed this safety talk template for employers to customize and use for any topic in their organization. The Participant Handout should include information that you hope the worker will retain from the safety talk content and should be handed out during the safety talk for workers to reference later. Feel free to use it at your discretion.

**Safe Snowmobiling Overview**

Every year, numerous workers at BC ski areas sustain injuries while operating snowmobiles. These injuries, and even fatalities, often occur due to collisions with trees, fencing, bridges, and other vehicles. Additionally, some accidents happen when snowmobiles overturn into ditches or streams, trapping the operator beneath the vehicle. The objective of this Safety Talk is to minimize the occurrence of such incidents, and reduce the number of workers injured while using snowmobiles.

**Safety Talk Outline (using the handout below):**

- Preventative Measures

- Discussion Questions

**Additional Resources:**

- [go2HR Ski Areas](https://www.go2hr.ca/health-safety/ski-areas)

## Topic Overview:

## 

## Safety Talk Facilitator Guidance

🞏 **Introduce** the topic and why it’s important

🞏 **Discuss** the associated hazards and likely incidents

🞏 **Tour** the work zone identifying hazardous areas

🞏 **Distribute** the Participant Handout

🞏 **Use** the info above to guide the discussion

🞏 **Document** the talk using the Safety Talk Record

🞏 **Explain** what controls are used to minimize the risks

🞏 **Remind** employees about applicable PPE usage

🞏 **Emphasize** the importance of safe work procedures

🞏 **Ask questions** to generate group discussion

🞏 **Answer any questions** or concerns they might have

🞏 **Set a good example** by working safely at all time

# safe snowmobiling

Safety Talk Record

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Discussion Leader:** | **Date:** |
| **Department:** | Time: |

### Attendees (Please print your name and sign beside it. If you are a contractor, also include your company name):

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### Near miss/incidents and investigations reviewed: ☐ None this month

### Any questions or concerns from workers?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action needed:** | **Person responsible:** | **Due date:** | **Completed date:** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Supervisor/Manager print name & sign:** | **Date:** |

### Reviewed by:

# safe snowmobiiling

Every year, numerous workers at BC ski areas sustain injuries while operating snowmobiles. These injuries, and even fatalities, often occur due to collisions with trees, fencing, bridges, and other vehicles. Additionally, some accidents happen when snowmobiles overturn into ditches or streams, trapping the operator beneath the vehicle. The objective of this Safety Talk is to minimize the occurrence of such incidents, and reduce the number of workers injured while using snowmobiles.

**Preventative Measures**

**Preparation and Equipment:**

- Evaluate if snowmobiling is necessary; consider alternative modes of travel

- Conduct a pre-trip inspection, checking lights, brakes, track, skis, fuel, etc.

- Attach safety stop cord to jacket if applicable

- Carry emergency radio and wear appropriate protective gear

**On the Trail:**

- Anticipate heavy traffic during commuting hours; be cautious at intersections

- Stay alert for obstacles like rocks, trees, and other vehicles

- Adjust driving technique based on snow conditions

- Follow designated snowmobile routes and obey signage

- Communicate intentions using radio; follow communication protocols

**Driving Techniques:**

- Ascend slopes straight on and accelerate evenly

- Maintain momentum when crossing slopes and shift weight uphill

- Learn and adhere to local traffic laws and regulations

- Follow speed limits specified by manufacturer

- Refer to company policies before towing

**Safety Practices:**

- Sit midway back on seat with feet firmly on running boards

- Use light throttle pressure and apply brakes lightly when going downhill

- Turn off engine before dismounting and assess snow conditions

- Educate passengers on safety practices before riding

- Only operate a snowmobile if trained and familiar with the terrain

- Avoid stopping while traversing a side hill to prevent rolling

- Yield at merge points, watch for skier traffic, and adjust speed accordingly

- Never use unmarked trails or prohibited areas

- Slow down at the top of hills to avoid unexpected hazards

- Steer clear of open water and buried creeks whenever possible

**Discussion**

- Discuss different weather conditions and how they impact snowmobiling safety

- Reflect on your experiences, have you encountered a situation where a safety guideline prevented an incident?

Participant Handout

### For more information on this topic or if you have questions, contact: