

# Snowmobiles Unstuck

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.

**Snowmobile Unstuck Overview**

Each year, ski areas across BC witness a concerning number of injuries among workers while attempting to free stuck snowmobiles. These incidents often result from the vehicle rolling to the side, pinning the operator underneath, or from exertion during pushing and pulling efforts. Our main objective is to mitigate these risks and safeguard the well-being of our workers.

**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

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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?

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

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

### Reviewed by:

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**Preventative Measures**

Here are some essential strategies to prevent injuries while dealing with stuck snowmobiles in the snow-covered landscapes of British Columbia's ski areas:

**Situation Assessment and Planning:**

- Evaluate the situation and consider calling for assistance via radio if necessary

- Exercise caution when deviating from designated routes

**Snow Preparation and Maneuvering:**

- Create a compacted snow area adjacent to the track for a runway

- Coordinate efforts with a ski pull for traction

- Avoid spinning the track if the snowmobile becomes bogged down

- Avoid excessive throttle application to prevent digging deeper into the snow

**Terrain Awareness and Safety Practices:**

- Use reverse gear and position yourself uphill if stopped facing uphill

- Refrain from lifting more than 50lbs alone and coordinate with a helper

**Parking and Route Adherence:**

- Prioritize safe parking considerations like avoiding parking facing uphill in loose snow

- If stopped facing uphill without momentum, engage reverse and turn 90 degrees perpendicular to the fall line

- Adhere to designated routes unless approved for off-course travel

**Snowmobile Extraction Techniques:**

- Turn off the engine and dismount carefully when attempting to free a snowmobile

- Recognize the weight of the snowmobile, typically ranging from 400-800 lbs.

- Remove excess gear such as backpacks, goggles, and helmets before attempting to lift.

- Clear snow around the snowmobile and position it downhill if feasible.

- Use proper lifting technique, flexing knees and lifting with the legs

- Fill any holes created during the “unstuck” process promptly

**Discussion**

- Reflecting on your own experience, do you have any additional preventative measures or lessons you’ve learned?

- How do you ensure effective communication and collaboration during tasks like getting a snowmobile “unstuck”?

Participant Handout

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