

A Safe Workplace

A Workplace Safety and Health Manual for Your Community

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Subject: VLE-23	Operating a Snowmobile	Approved By: Harvey Bostrom
		Effective: May 31, 2008
		Revised: April 1, 2011

Only competent persons allowed to operate snowmobile.

PPE Required: CSA approved helmet, appropriate winter clothing

Warning:

1. Wear layers of clothes for maximum protection from the cold.
2. Read and understand the owner's manual.
3. Know where the controls are and what they do.
4. Never remove or disable guards or other safety devices.
5. Never operate/ride in an unsafe manner.
6. Do not smoke while operating or fuelling gas driven tools.

Legislation requires that a powered machine used to move workers must have the owner/operator manual available, and that a written record of inspections, repairs and maintenance carried out on the equipment is kept at the workplace and made readily available to the operator.

Snowmobile Operation

Steps:

1. Ensure your contact (See *Working Alone Procedure*, (section III-C, G-10) is aware of your travel route, expected departure and return, and whether you will be available by radio contact.
2. If you are travelling over, or working on ice with a snowmobile, be sure to review and follow, *Operating Equipment on Ice Procedure* (section III-D, VLE-24).
3. Never attempt to service or inspect the snowmobile with the engine running (see *Lockout Procedure*, section III-C, G-11).
4. Perform a pre-trip inspection of the snowmobile as follows:
 - a) look for worn belts/cables. Ensure you have a matching spare drive belt;
 - b) check oil and fuel levels. Ensure oil and fuel caps are tightly closed, and any vent holes are clear;
 - c) check that a toolkit is present (look for screwdrivers, wrenches, sparkplug wrench, spare sparkplugs, and a ripcord);
 - d) depress and release throttle and brake levers several times to ensure they are operating

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- freely. Do not operate the snowmobile if brakes are not operating properly (See step 3);
- e) clear ice and snow from foot boards to ensure stable footing;
 - f) check that headlight(s) are functioning on low and high beam;
 - g) a first aid kit and emergency survival kit should be stored within the snowmobile; and
 - h) a proper fire extinguisher must be available on the snowmobile.

***** Do not operate the snowmobile if the pre-trip inspection indicates maintenance ***
or repairs are required**

5. Complete a pre-use inspection form or log book.
6. Allow your snowmobile engine to warm up for a few minutes prior to operating the snowmobile.
7. To check braking system (after confirming the brake lever functions properly and the throttle lever is not sticking), in a safe area and manner slowly accelerate the snowmobile to a slow speed, release the throttle and apply the braking lever with a continuous even pressure. If the snowmobile does not respond correctly, and stop within a reasonable distance, have your brakes serviced or repaired.
8. Never carry a passenger unless your owner's manual indicates the snowmobile is designed and equipped for a passenger.
9. While traveling be especially aware of irregularities and uneven surfaces. Be alert and ready to shift your body weight to compensate for changes in center of gravity due to these changes in surface.
10. Travel at a speed which is safe. This is a speed appropriate to ground conditions and operator skill and experience.
10. See *Powered Mobile Equipment Procedure* (section III-E, VLE-18) for general instructions to operate powered and mobile equipment.