

CHAPTER 7-8 SNOWMOBILES

7-8-1 DEFINITIONS

1. Operate: To control the operation of a snowmobile.
2. Operator: Every person who operates or who is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.
3. Owner: Any person, other than a lien holder, having the possession of or title to a snowmobile and entitled to the use or possession thereof.
4. Roadway: That portion of a highway which is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicles or travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.
5. Snowmobile: Any engine-driven vehicle of a type which utilizes sled-type runners, wheels or skis with an endless belt tread or similar means of contact with the surface upon which it is operated.
6. Streets: All platted streets and public roads and highways located within the boundaries of the City of Howard.

7-8-2 OPERATION ON PARKS, RIGHT-OF-WAYS, SIDEWALKS, BOULEVARDS, ETC. UNLAWFUL

It shall be unlawful to operate a snowmobile upon any public park, sidewalk, and boulevard and or right-of-way within the City of Howard except as specifically permitted hereinafter. No snowmobile shall be operated within the city limits between 12:00 midnight and 7:00 a.m.

7-8-3 WHEN OPERATION ON CITY STREETS PERMITTED

A. A snowmobile may be operated upon a right-of-way upon the following conditions:

1. When road and weather conditions are declared by the Sheriff to constitute emergency travel conditions and the use of a snowmobile is specifically authorized by the Sheriff.
2. When use of a snowmobile is necessary as an emergency vehicle to protect the health and safety of an individual.
3. The exceptions provided in the foregoing paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not authorize or permit the use of snowmobiles under emergency conditions for any purpose other than actual emergencies.

B. When operating a snowmobile upon a city street pursuant to the provisions of this section, the operator shall keep his vehicle to the right edge of the roadway, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles at any uncontrolled intersections, and shall not exceed a maximum speed of twenty (20) miles per hour.

C. Not more than two (2) people shall be permitted to ride on a snowmobile at any time.

D. A snowmobile operator may not tow more than one (1) sled or object behind his snowmobile and any objects being towed shall be secured by means of a rigid hitch no longer than six (6) feet in length.

7-8-4 OPERATION ON PUBLIC PROPERTY RESTRICTED

It shall be unlawful to operate a snowmobile upon any public property within the City of Howard unless said property has been designated for use by snowmobiles by means of conspicuously posted signs stating, "Snowmobiling authorized", or words to that effect. It is unlawful to operate snowmobiles upon public sidewalks or recreational trails at any time.

7-8-5 OPERATION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RESTRICTED

It is unlawful to operate a snowmobile upon private property within the City between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 a.m. and operation during the foregoing prohibited hour is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

7-8-6 REGULATION OF OPERATION GENERALLY

1. No person shall operate a snowmobile in the City in a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the safety of any person or the property of any person.
2. No person shall operate a snowmobile in this City without first having such snowmobile registered and licensed in accordance with state law.
3. No person shall operate a snowmobile on any City street or upon any public property of the City unless the operator possesses a valid driver's license.
4. It shall be unlawful to operate snowmobiles two (2) or more abreast upon a City street.

7-8-7 EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

1. Mufflers which are properly attached and which reduce the engine noise of the vehicle to the minimum noise necessary for operating the snowmobile and no person shall use a muffler cutout, by-pass or similar device on said snowmobile.
2. Adequate brakes in good working condition.
3. A safety throttle in good operating condition. A safety throttle is defined as a device which, when pressure is removed from the accelerator, causes the motor to disengage from the driving track.
4. A six-foot safety antenna with an attached florescent color flag, at least 8" x 11" in size.

7-8-8 PENALTY

Any person in violation of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a maximum fine not to exceed \$200.00 and/or thirty days in jail or both.

Authority: Ordinance #552, 4/7/97