

CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
ORDINANCE #98-03

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF  
SNOWMOBILES IN THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR

SECTION 1 INTENT

It is the intent of this Ordinance to supplement MN State Statute Section 84.81 to 84.91, and Chapter 169, as these statutes may be amended from time to time and MN Rules Parts 6100.5000 through 6100.6000, as these rules may be amended from time to time, with respect to the operation of snowmobiles. This Ordinance is not intended to allow what the MN State Statute and Rules prohibit, nor to prohibit what the MN State Statute and Rules allow.

SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Ordinance the definitions shall apply:

- A. DEADMAN THROTTLE or SAFETY THROTTLE – A device which, when pressure is removed from the engine accelerator or throttle, causes the motor to be disengaged from the driving mechanism.
- B. OPERATE – To ride in or on and have control of a recreational motor vehicle.
- C. OPERATOR – The person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.
- D. OWNER – A person, other than a lien holder, having a property interest in, or title to a snowmobile, or who is entitled to the use or possession thereof.
- E. PERSON – Includes an individual, partnership, corporation or any body of persons, whether incorporated or not.
- F. RIGHT-OF-WAY – The entire strip of land traversed by a highway or street in which the public owns the fee or an easement for roadway purposes.
- G. SIDEWALK – Any walkway or walking path, whether constructed of concrete or bituminous, which is designed for pedestrian travel.
- H. SNOWMOBILES – A self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice, steered by skis or runners and used for snow related recreational purposes.
- I. STREET – Any public thoroughfare, roadway, highway, street or alley within the City of St. Clair, which is used for motor vehicle traffic.

### SECTION 3 OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILES WITHIN ST. CLAIR CITY LIMITS

The following requirements must be adhered to when operating a snowmobile in the City of St. Clair:

- A. STATE LAW – In addition to the requirements set forth in this Ordinance, all state laws governing the operation of snowmobiles shall be obeyed by snowmobile operators.
- B. ROUTE – Snowmobiles shall be allowed to operate when taking the shortest most direct route to and from their destination.
- C. HOURS – Snowmobile shall be allowed to operate between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 1:30 a.m.
- D. SPEED – Snowmobiles shall travel at a speed not greater than 15 miles per hour.
- E. STREET TRAVEL –
  - 1. Snowmobiles shall be permitted to operate on the right-hand-most portion of the street available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the street, and in the same direction as the street traffic.
  - 2. Snowmobiles shall also be permitted to operate upon the ditch bottom where such highways are so configured within the City limits.
  - 3. When traveling in a group, snowmobiles must travel one behind the other, single file, and must allow proper spacing of at least 20 feet between machines.
  - 4. Snowmobiles shall be permitted to cross a sidewalk at a 90 degree angle for the express purpose of gaining access to a street. Other than such crossing, operation of a snowmobile on any public sidewalk is strictly prohibited.
- F. INTERSECTIONS – No snowmobile shall enter any intersection without yielding the right of way to any pedestrian or vehicle at the intersection, or so close to the intersection as to constitute an immediate hazard.
- G. MOTOR RUNNING – It is unlawful for the operator to leave or allow a snowmobile to be or remain unattended on public property while the motor is running or with the keys to start same in the ignition switch. The operator must lock the ignition, remove the key and take the key with him when leaving the snowmobile on public property.
- H. EMERGENCIES – Notwithstanding any prohibition in this Ordinance, a snowmobile may be operated on a public street in any emergency during the period of time when, and at the locations where, snow upon the street renders travel by automobile impractical.
- I. AGE RELATED REQUIREMENTS –

It is unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit the snowmobile to be operated contrary to these age-related provisions.

1. All snowmobile operators under the age of eighteen (18) years of age must possess a valid Snowmobile Safety Certificate issued pursuant to MN State Statute Section 84.872.
2. No person under fourteen (14) years of age shall operate on streets or highways or make a direct crossing of a street or highway as the operator of a snowmobile.

#### SECTION 4 SNOWMOBILE OPERATING RESTRICTIONS

It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile in the City of St. Clair in the following manner:

- A. On a public sidewalk.
- B. On boulevard within any public right-of-way.
- C. On private property of another without specific permission of the owner or occupant or without lawful authority.
- D. On any public property, including, but not limited to, park property, playgrounds, recreational areas, skating rinks, sliding areas, ball fields, school grounds, cemeteries, public lots and green spaces.
- E. Between the hours of 1:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- F. At a rate of speed greater than 15 miles per hour.
- G. In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger or cause injury of damage to the person or property of another.
- H. While the operator is under the influence of alcoholic beverage or a controlled substance.
- I. Towing any person or thing on a public street or highway except through the use of a rigid tow bar attached to the rear of an automobile.
- J. In a manner so as to create a loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which disturbs, annoys, or interferes with the peace and quiet of other persons.
- K. Without a lighted headlight or tail light.
- L. In any trees, nursery or planting that damages or destroys growing stock or on any private property without the permission of the owner thereof.
- M. Chasing, running over, or killing any animal, wild or domestic.

## SECTION 5 REGULATIONS FOR CROSSING OF STREET OR HIGHWAY

A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street in the City of St. Clair provided:

- A. The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the street and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- B. The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing.
- C. The operator shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian or vehicle prior to crossing.

## SECTION 6 EQUIPMENT

All snowmobiles operated within the City of St. Clair shall have the following equipment:

- A. MUFFLER – Standard mufflers which are properly attached and which reduce the noise of the operation of the motor to the minimum noise necessary for operating the vehicle. That no person shall use a muffler cut-out, by-pass or similar device on a snowmobile.
- B. BRAKES – Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the snowmobile under any condition of operation.
- C. SAFETY THROTTLE – A safety or so-called “deadman” throttle in operating condition.
- D. LIGHTS – When operated between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, or at times of reduced visibility
  1. At least one (1) clear lamp attached to the front, with sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions.
    - a. The head lamp shall be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of an oncoming snowmobile operator.
  2. At least one (1) red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear during hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions.
- E. Reflective material at least sixteen (16) inches on each side, forward of the handlebars, so as to reflect light at a 90 degree angle.

## SECTION 7 OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

It is unlawful for the owner of any snowmobile to permit its operation on private property without permission of the owner or occupant, or on public property without the permission of body in charge thereof. For purposes of this Section, the owner shall be conclusively presumed to have given such permission unless the snowmobile so operated shall have been reported stolen to a law enforcement agency.

SECTION 8 PENALTY

Violations to this Ordinance shall be a misdemeanor.

SECTION 9 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance becomes effective upon its passage and publication.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of St. Clair, Minnesota this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 1998.

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Dennis Zabel, Mayor

Attest:

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Catherine A. Miller, City Clerk-Treasurer