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OPP snowmobile safety tips

Winter weather means the OPP are responding to more snowmobile related incidents

(PETERBOROUGH) With winter weather in full force, Peterborough County OPP is now responding to snowmobile-related incidents.

Here are some snowmobile safety tips from the OPP to ensure everyone's snowmobile experience is safer and more enjoyable.

Safety tips:

- Never ride on closed trails. To do so is trespassing. Trails are closed for your safety.
- Know where you are riding and that you have permission to be there, if not, you are trespassing.
- Never drink and Ride. A snowmobile is a motor vehicle as defined under the Criminal Code of Canada.
- Avoid waterways. Do not confuse a snowmobile for a boat, it is not. If you break through the ice, you and it will sink.
- Always obey the rules of the trail. They are there for your safety.
- Don't Speed! The speed limit while travelling in urban areas is 20 km/h and in rural areas it is 50 km/h, unless stated otherwise on the trail.
- Wear the proper clothing for snowmobiling. Weather and trail conditions can change quickly, wear clothing that will protect you.
- Wear an approved snowmobiling helmet.
- Stay on marked trails. Venturing off them may take you onto private property.
- On all trips, both short and long, always let someone know your route so if you have problems, emergency service personnel will know where to start looking for you.
- Carry a cell phone with a fully charged battery
- Finally, remember as the operator of a snowmobile, it is the choices you make while riding that either gets you home safely or into a situation that may cause mishap, injury or death.

For more information on Safe Snowmobiling, please call your local Snowmobile Club, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. (www.ofsc.on.ca), Peterborough County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police at 742-0401 or your local police service.