

CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

SNOWMOBILE REGULATIONS

The City of Sault Ste. Marie adopted a snowmobile ordinance which regulates the use of snowmobiles within the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The City Commission authorized the use of the following streets, alleys and right-of-ways for the operation of a snowmobile as follows:

The City Commission adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 24, Article VI, Sections 24-117 through Sections 24-156 that prescribes certain requirements for snowmobiles that operate on City streets that are approved by resolution of the City Commission for snowmobile use.

The ordinance communicates that the City Commission intends to open all streets, alleys, and right-of-ways to snowmobile use in accordance with the operation regulations that were approved by the City Commission on September 2, 2008, except those streets that have been traditionally closed for snowmobile use as part of the annual I-500 celebration.

The City Commission designates all streets, alleys, right-of-ways as open to snowmobile operations in accordance with the regulations outlined in Chapter 24, Article VI of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Code with the following exceptions:

- Highway I-75 from 3 Mile Road to the International Bridge
 - M-129 from 3 Mile Road to the I-75 Business Spur
 - I-75 Business Spur beginning at 3 Mile Rd & Extending North to Portage Ave
 - Portage Avenue from Ashmun Street to the Sugar Island Ferry Dock
 - Easterday Avenue Hill from Davitt Street to Pine Street
 - Peck Street from Ashmun Street to Gov. Osborn Blvd.
 - Gov. Osborn Blvd. from Peck Street to Spruce Street
 - Spruce Street from Court Street west to Pine Street
 - Nolte from Memorial Drive to Pine Street
 - Memorial Drive between Nolte and Peck Street
 - W. Portage Avenue from Ashmun Street to Gov. Osborn Blvd.
 - Marquette Avenue from I-75 Business Spur to Shunk Road – effective January 15, 2010
1. Snowmobiling is allowed on any trail as authorized by the City Commission.
 2. Snowmobiles must obey all motor vehicle traffic laws, state snowmobile laws, local ordinances and must yield to all motor vehicles using the authorized street and alley areas. Speed limits on City Streets are 20 mph or less if so posted.
 3. No person shall operate a snowmobile at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to persons and property and conditions then existing.

4. Operation of Snowmobiles on City Streets:
 - a. All operators of snowmobiles on public right of ways, streets, or alleys that have been authorized by resolution of the City Commission as open for snowmobile use shall be over the age of 16 years, or if they are less than 16 years of age and at least 12 years of age they must be under the direct supervision of a person over the age of 18 years old.
 - b. All operators of snowmobiles on public right of ways, streets, or alleys that have been authorized by resolution of the City Commission as open for snowmobile use who are under the age of 18 years shall carry and possess a valid State of Michigan or other State issued safety training certificate at all times. Upon the request of any law enforcement personnel the operator shall display for examination the certificate.
 - c. The operator shall cause the snowmobile come to a complete stop at each and every intersection with such authorized public right of way even if the intersection is not posted for a required stop. Please note: vehicle operators must be alert that snowmobiles are required to stop at all intersections. Snowmobile operators must be alert to motor vehicles not being required to stop at all intersections.
 - d. The operator shall use hand signals for all turns and stops.
 - e. The operator shall not pass any vehicle which is ahead and moving in the same direction as the snowmobile upon the right of way.
 - f. The operator shall not tow any passengers with the snowmobile unless the passengers are contained in a commercially manufactured trailer designed for the conveyance of passengers and such trailer is affixed to the snowmobile by a ball or pin hitch attached to a rigid tow bar.
 - g. City ordinance allows use of snowmobiles in non-prohibited areas to access trails, businesses, and residents. Unnecessary indiscriminate operating up and down or crossing of such streets or alleys is prohibited.
 - h. Operation on authorized City Streets is restricted to only the far right hand portion of the authorized public right of way that has been plowed.
 - i. Operation is prohibited on any unplowed portion of the authorized public right of way including but not limited to any snow banks, sidewalks, or bicycle paths.
5. No person shall operate a snowmobile on the private property of another person, nor upon any publicly owned property unless the property is posted "Open to Snowmobiles" by the owner.
6. The operation of snowmobiles on the bike path running along the Business Spur is prohibited. This is for non-motorized vehicles only.
7. All snowmobile operators should be familiar with all laws and local ordinances. The obligation to be familiar is with the operator and ignorance of the law is not an excuse under the law.
8. Operate your snowmobile safely and with regards to other people's rights and property.

9. City snowmobile trails or City Streets are not for use by ATV's or ORV vehicles (wheeled or tracked).
10. Snowmobile operation is prohibited in the City between the hours of 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

PLEASE USE EXTRA CAUTION WHEN SHARING THE ROADWAYS WITH VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

For additional information visit www.saultcity.com or www.sootrails.org.

The Sault Ste. Marie City Police Department will be strictly enforcing all snowmobile violations. Residents and citizens with complaints are asked to report them as this will assist patrols in identifying problem areas in the City.

**JOHN RILEY, CHIEF OF POLICE
CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE**