

# Snowmobiling Fact Sheet

During the 2005/2006 year, there were a total of **2,096** visits to an emergency department and **268** hospitalizations due to a snowmobiling injury in Ontario.

82% of the ER visits were due to a collision with an object.

Males accounted for over 75% of ER visits and 84% hospitalizations, the largest peak observed among 15-19 year olds.

Injuries to the lower and upper limbs were the most common.

Statistics from the Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program show that the main causes of child snowmobile-related injuries are losing control of the machine, being thrown off, or colliding with an immobile object, such as a tree or another snowmobile.

Anyone 16 years of age and over with a valid Ontario driver's licence and a motorized snow vehicle operator's licence (MSVOL) is allowed to drive a snowmobile across a road, on roadways where legally permitted and on trails.

Children younger than 6 should never ride on a snowmobile, even with an adult.

Everyone who drives or rides on a snowmobile **MUST** wear a helmet that meets the standards approved for motorcycle helmets. You should also wear eye protection and protective clothing.

Plan your route and ensure all areas are designated as safe for snowmobile travel. Stay on the Trails.

Check with authorities to ensure bodies of water are safe for travel.

Pack a first aid kit and survival kit, tool kit and adequate food and water and wear layers of warm clothing.

Check weather conditions and avalanche conditions.

Always Drive Sober. If you are convicted of impaired driving on a snowmobile, you will lose your driving privileges for **all** types of vehicles.

Always travel with a friend. Let a responsible person know your route and when you plan to return.

When driving at night, wear reflective clothing and reduce your speed.

Ride within your skill level.

Travel on designated paths, not on railway tracks.

Never tow children in sleds behind the snowmobile.

Resources:

[www.childsafetylink@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:www.childsafetylink@iwk.nshealth.ca) – Child Safety Link

[www.cheo.on.ca](http://www.cheo.on.ca) – Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

[www.sickkids.ca](http://www.sickkids.ca) – The Hospital for Sick Children

[www.smartrisk.ca](http://www.smartrisk.ca) – Ontario Injury Compass

[www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca) – Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

[www.region.durham.on.ca](http://www.region.durham.on.ca) – Region of Durham



Contact: Jane Harrington – Injury Prevention Educator  
[Jane.harrington@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Jane.harrington@lhsc.on.ca)