

# DNR Report From Lt. Marty Stone, Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator

I hope to be in person in upcoming  
meetings

Conservation Wardens And Wisconsin DNR  
Hope To Continue Our Partnership With  
The Association Of Wisconsin Snowmobile  
Clubs By Working Together And  
Collaborating On Safety Messaging, Law &  
Rule Changes, Emerging Trends,  
Snowmobile Safety Training, And  
Expanding Snowmobiling In Wisconsin.

This Is A Great Partnership In Which We've  
Seen Great Dividends.

DNR Law Enforcement Initiated “Think Smart Before You Start—Snowmobile Safety Campaign” In January 2021 To Coincide With International Snowmobile Safety Week. Its Intent Was To Promote Safe Snowmobiling And To Get Wardens & Local Law Enforcement Out Onto The Trails.

The 1<sup>st</sup> campaign in 2021 was a great success:

- Over 100 wardens & local LE participated
- Officers patrolled 2,400 miles of trails & 248 frozen lakes
- 1500 snowmobilers were contacted
- 350 warnings were issued

- 48 citations were issued, including 2 OWI arrests
- No trail pass and trespass were the 2 most common violations observed
- Wardens were distributing free Culvers ice cream coupons to reward safe behavior

We Intend To Conduct This Safety Campaign Again In January of 2022.

- Safety messaging put forth by Wisconsin DNR include:
  - **Zero alcohol.** No drinking before or during your ride keeps you safe on the trail.
  - **Slow down.** Speed is a contributing factor in nearly all fatal snowmobiling accidents. Drivers should proceed at a pace that will allow ample reaction time for any situation. Drive at moderate speeds, and drive defensively, especially after sunset.

- Safety messaging put forth by Wisconsin DNR include:
  - **Stay on marked trails** or, where allowed, on the right shoulder of the road. Be alert for fences, tree stumps and stretched wire that may be concealed by snow.
  - **Avoid traveling across bodies of water** when uncertain of ice thickness or water currents. Rapidly changing weather and moving water in streams and lake inlets also affect the thickness and strength of ice on lakes and ponds. Snow cover can act as a blanket and prevents thick strong ice from forming.
  - **Never travel alone.** Most snowmobile accidents result in personal injury. The most dangerous situations occur when a person is injured and alone. If you must travel alone, tell someone your destination, planned route, and when you will return.

- Safety messaging put forth by Wisconsin DNR include:
  - **Carry a first-aid kit and dress appropriately**, your first-aid kit should include a flashlight, knife, compass, map, and waterproof matches. Always wear a helmet with goggles or a face shield to prevent injuries from twigs and flying debris. Wear layers of water-repellent clothing and make sure you have no loose ends that might catch in the machine or tangle in equipment.



- This past August The Warden Training Section conducted sound level enforcement training for 30 conservation wardens and a county patrol deputy.
  - This training was all inclusive and included snowmobile sound level training and testing standards.
  - Training included sections on snowmobile mufflers & their modifications.

- Regrettably As of 03/20/2020 there were 19 fatal snowmobile crashes during 2020 in Wisconsin:
  - 11 occurred on public trails
  - 5 occurred on frozen waters
  - 2 occurred on roadways
  - 1 occurred on private property
  - 12 of the 19 crashes involved Alcohol.  
Speed continues to be contributing factor as well.

# Snowmobile Safety In Wisconsin

- A total of 186 in-person snowmobile safety classes took place in 2020.
  - 216 in-person classes were held in 2019
  - 178 in-person classes have taken place to date in 2021

Students Certified

In-Person

Online

2021 to-date

2,113

6,238

2020

3,358

6,479

2019

4,208

5,785

2018

3,687

4,245

2021 8351 Total students certified to-date

2020 9837 Total students certified, 157 less students from 2019

2019 9993 Total students certified

2018 7932 Total students certified

Please Have A Safety And Enjoyable Season