

April 6, 2005

**SNOWMOBILE FATALITIES  
2003-2004 SEASON**

<b>Number of snowmobile fatalities</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Number of injuries reported</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>Total number of accidents reported</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Number of machines damaged</b>	<b>192</b>

**46% Of the fatalities involved alcohol**

**57 of the operators involved in injury or property damage accidents used alcohol**

**11/24/2003, 8:57 p.m. – Hennepin County – Minnetrista.**

18-year-old male operating a snowmobile collided with a pickup truck on a county road. The snowmobile was traveling westbound in an eastbound lane. The driver of the pickup truck (traveling eastbound) slammed on his brakes, but due to icy road conditions was unable to stop. The operator of the snowmobile landed underneath the pickup truck. Snowmobile safety certificate – yes. Alcohol involved –no.

**12/9/2003, 9:00 p.m. – Carver County – Norwood Young America.**

19-year-old male operating a snowmobile was traveling westbound along a ridge and collided head on with another snowmobile traveling eastbound. The 2<sup>nd</sup> driver was not injured. Snowmobile safety certificate – yes. Alcohol involved -no.

**12/12/2003, 6:35 p.m. – Washington County – Cottage Grove**

35-year-old male operating a snowmobile on a trail in a wooded area collided with a tree in a windrow. The Victim was familiar with the trail and had sped ahead of a second snowmobile that was approximately 3 minutes behind. As the Victim approached a curve in the trail he was unable to negotiate the turn, left the trail and struck a tree. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – no.

**12/16/03, 11:20 p.m. - Anoka County – East Bethel**

32-year-old male drove his snowmobile across a lake and attempted to jump the shore embankment. As he did so he struck a cable that was stretched across the shoreline. The victim suffered fatal neck and head injuries. Snowmobile safety certificate – no. Alcohol involved – no. Drugs involved – yes.

**1/10/04, 3:51 p.m. – Isanti County – Princeton**

37-year-old male operating a snowmobile on Rum River struck a tree that was growing from shore over the river. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – no.

**1/31/04, 12:41 p.m. – Pine County – Hinckley**

39-year-old male operating a snowmobile on a roadway, left the roadway and fell off machine. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – yes. Alcohol involved – **BAC .11**.

**2/8/04, 5:39 p.m. – Crow Wing County – Brainerd**

50-year-old male operating a snowmobile near Crow Wing State Park struck a road approach, was thrown from machine, and the snowmobile landed on top of him. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC .297**.

**2/8/04, 7:09 p.m. – Pipestone County – Edgerton**

50-year-old male operating a snowmobile on a road right-of-way collided with a pickup. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC .10**.

**2/12/04, 1:10 p.m. – Lake County – Silver Bay**

48-year-old male was third in a group of 3 snowmobiles operating on a state snowmobile trail on an abandoned railroad line. The lead snowmobile stopped abruptly at an intersection with a forest road, causing the second sled to also stop abruptly. The victim operating the third snowmobile, jumped or was thrown onto the second machine and sustained fatal chest injuries. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – no.

**3/2/04, 3:44 p.m. – Ramsey County – New Brighton**

46-year-old male operating a snowmobile northbound on Long Lake, broke through the ice. He climbed over the snowmobile as it sank, but the ice gave way under his feet and he drowned. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – yes. Alcohol involved – no.

**3/6/04, 5:29 p.m. – Aitkin County - Aitkin**

55-year-old male operating a snowmobile, on Big Sandy Lake, went over an ice ridge and was thrown from the machine. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC .20**.

**3/11/04, 12:00 a.m. – Norman County - Halstad**

33-year-old male operating a snowmobile on a dike, attempted to cut a corner on the dike and then flew over the top of the dike, before landing and being thrown from the machine and tumbling another 45 feet with the snowmobile before coming to rest in a road ditch. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC .16**.

**3/23/04, 7:30 p.m. – Cook County – Grand Marais**

38-year-old male operating his snowmobile, while following another snowmobile returning from a day of fishing after dark on an unfamiliar lake, when both snowmobiles hit open water. After hitting the water, the victim traveled approximately 40 ft. further before drowning in 12 ft. of water. Snowmobile Safety Certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC .24**.