

COORDINATOR'S CORNER



By Lt. Leland Owens



MINNESOTA DNR ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

ATV/SNOWMOBILE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Snowmobile Safety Training Option on CD!!

This years project that is gaining momentum and attention in the Safety and Education Section is the new Snowmobile Safety CD.

For those of you who haven't heard, and for those others who have heard rumors, here are the facts: We are establishing a youth and adult snowmobile safety program on CD that mirrors our current ATV safety program.

The first thing I want to make clear is that our traditional youth snowmobile safety class is **NOT** being discontinued. The new CD based program is being introduced as another option for the public.

Here's how it will work. The student will obtain a

free CD from the DNR. They will study the in depth safety information on the CD at their own pace in the comfort of their own home under the guidance of an adult. The CD will take approximately 2-4 hours to complete. (depending on age / experience)

Once they have completed the CD, 11-15 year old students print out a voucher of completion and go to the DNR website to find and register for a one day Snowmobile Safety class in their area. Adult students 16 and older will simply mail their voucher of completion and fee to Ripley

At the Snowmobile Safety CD Class day 11-15 year old students will hand in CD completion paperwork to the instructors, who will take a couple hours to

cover the highpoints and important safety information. The students will take a final written exam and also must take our driving/practical test. The classroom portion and the driving test should take 4-5 hours for a recommended class size of 24 students.

We have chosen to go this direction with snowmobile safety training for a number of reasons. First off increasing computer ownership and access. Love 'em or hate 'em, facts are youth today grow up learning ABC's and 123's on computers and they continue learning on/with computers the rest of their lives. Data shows youth remember and retain the information they've learned.

Snowmobile Safety CD (cont'd page 4)

Program Gets National Attention! By Leland Owens

Recently the Minnesota DNR Trail Ambassador program received national attention. NOHVCC (National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation

Council) and the National Association of OHV Program Managers held their annual conference in Houston, TX at the end of March. This conference is

attended by people from different states throughout the U.S..

Program Gets National Attention (Cont'd page 4)

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- Summary of ATV Law Changes**
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2008 Snowmobile Safety Instructor of the Year



Jim Miesbauer from Byron, MN was named the Snowmobile Safety Instructor of the year for 2008. Jim has been snowmobiling since 1970. He joined the Byron Snow Bears in 1986 and served as past club president in 88-89, 91-92. He has put in hundreds of hours as the main trail groomer operator for the last 18 years. He has been a dedicated DNR certified instructor for 20 years and a Lead instructor since 1991. During that time he and his fellow instructors have certified approximately 600 youth and adults in the Byron area. Jim has consistently promoted safe, ethical snowmobiling! Jim is a two time recipient of 'Snowmobiler-of-the-Year' award - 87-88 and 91-92. Congratulations Jim!!



L-R: DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten, Instructor of the Year Jim Miesbauer, Lt. Governor Carol Malnau, and Lt. Leland Owens

INSTRUCTORS!!

Please fill out a class registration form for every class taught, even if supplies are not needed.

Filling out rosters is for Instructors only. Do NOT allow any students to fill out the student roster that is returned to Ripley. We've gotten some with missing/incomplete information.

Also, please double check your rosters before you mail them. Make sure all necessary information is present and legible, i.e. full legal name, birth date, current address.

CONGRATULATIONS INSTRUCTORS!!

Snowmobile Safety Certification Numbers for 2008—2009

Snowmobile Safety Instructors continued with consistent safety training of our states youth this past season.

From Fall of '08 to April '09:

7, 298 Youth were certified
(11 yo—15 yo)

2,432 Adults (16 yo & up) also completed the training during that same time period.

ATV Safety Certification Numbers for 2008

All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Instructors had another great year of teaching youth safety and ethics. In calendar year 2008...

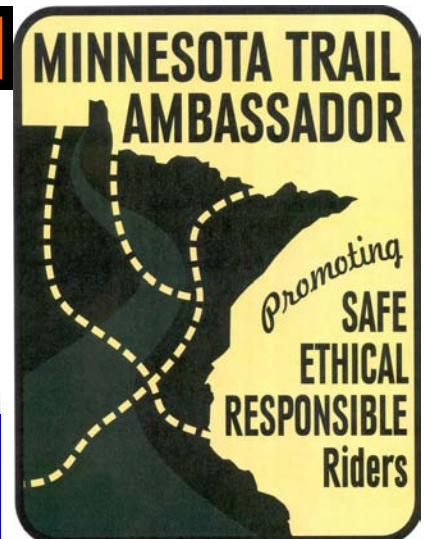
**2,248 Youth were certified
(11 yo—15 yo)**

**179 ATV Youth Classes were held
695 Adults (16 yo & up) also completed ATV training in this time period**

Thank You Volunteer Instructors!!

Ambassadors Step Up for 'Round Two'

Grant applications are coming in and Ambassador volunteers are watching for state trails to open as the second year of the Trail Ambassador program kicks off. Since the first of this year DNR Regional Training Officers have delivered twelve Youth ATV Safety Instructor Clinics around the state resulting in over seventy new ATV instructors! RTO's have also hosted six Trail Ambassador training days with the last one scheduled for May 16th in Grand Rapids. We are on track to add over 70 new Ambassadors!



Vol-un-tee; A person who renders aid, performs a service, or assumes an obligation voluntarily.

American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition

2008 ATV Safety Instructor of the Year

The DNR regularly recognizes volunteers who make outstanding efforts to promote safety education through the different DNR safety training programs. Last May **Len Hardy** was honored as the 2007 DNR Volunteer ATV Safety Instructor of the Year. He was presented the award at the ATVAM Spring Fair in Sauk Rapids.

This year we will be announcing the **2008 ATV Instructor of the year award** in Silver Bay at the longest ATV Parade event.

See You In Silver Bay!

These Numbers are No Game— RTO Bruce Lawrence

ATV accidents from 2008 involved a number of factors, which resulted in injuries and death. Analysis of OHV fatalities and injuries over the course of 2008:

Fatality Reports

17 deaths in ATV accidents

1 death in a OHV accident

0 deaths for OHMs

Those involved in ATV deaths had measurable amounts of alcohol in their systems. (Average age 43)

Eight out of sixteen operators had alcohol present in their blood systems at the time of death. Five of the eight had blood alcohol concentration over the legal limit. (BAC above .08)

Youth involved in ATV deaths:

Average age is 14

24% of 2008 deaths ranged from ages 10-19

Injuries reported

Total accidents reported numbered at 263. Of these, personal injuries reported to be at 284. Meaning that not only operators were affected by accidents but passengers and pedestrians in close proximity were affected.

Safety training aspect

Viewing all the reports for 2008 showed that 15 out of 17 OHV fatalities were operators with no DNR ATV safety certification training.

Can we say that 100% of those trained and receiving a DNR ATV certificate will escape from injury or even death? We can safely say no, accidents occur to even the safest of riders but the propensity to be involved in an accident is greatly reduced with proper training.

Thanks to volunteer ATV Safety Instructors
helping reduce these stats!



**Ride Safe, Ride Smart,
Always!**

**Program Gets National Attention
Continued from Page 1**

Capt. Hammer and I were on the agenda to give a presentation about the MN Trail Ambassador Program. We were unable to attend in person but, thanks to today's technology, I took part in a web seminar (webinar). From my office, using a computer, I was able to give the presentation on our program to a group of attendees at the conference! The presentation was well received. This was in an effort to share what we've put together for the greater good of the sport and to give back to other states that had shared info with us about their trail program's. It's a reminder to all of us that whether we are a volunteer instructor or trail ambassador, people from other states are watching what we do!!

**Snowmobile Safety CD Article
Continued from Page 1**

Second, distance or CD based learning/training is a growing successful part of our world. Many companies and agencies (DNR included) are using distance or CD based teaching tools. In most cases it has been found to be economical and effective.

Third, this 'CD-home study' class style reduces the burden and demand on the individual volunteer instructors and groups. It affords the opportunity for instructor groups to consider adding another safety class or two to further serve their local communities.

We believe our current CD based interactive ATV program has played a part in the reduction of youth ATV fatalities and accidents involving. Overall youth ATV education has increased dramatically using this CD style of delivery system.

You need to know that the CD's can be used in any computer, they can be used by multiple students, and are a compact tangible item for our Conservation Officers and others to hand out to individuals and at special events.

I've spoken with some of you instructors and you've stated that you will never teach a 'one' day Snowmobile Safety course.

That is just fine! We believe there will be a demand for the traditional style of snowmobile safety classes for a long time to come. I have also had a number of instructors who are excited to try the new CD based training.

Again, the CD based course with the one day classroom and riding portion gives the general public a viable option that may work better with their schedule.

Look for further information on the new Snowmobile Safety CD based training coming up soon. Our goal is to have a working rough draft by July 1st.

Thanks for All you Do Snowmobile

**ATV/OHM/ORV (OHV) Violator
Training is Happening**

Some of you may not realize that Minnesota law requires individuals who are issued a criminal citation and convicted of violating an OHV law, (ATV, OHM, ORV) to complete the vehicle specific Safety Training program.

The DNR Division of Enforcement sends out letters to those convicted individuals reminding them of the requirement along with a copy of the related Safety Training CD and current OHV regulations. Over 570 of these mailings went out for 2008. Conservation Officers are also handing out informational cards to anyone who is criminally cited for an OHV law violation.

The Legislature, OHV user groups and the DNR believe that education plays an important role in changing attitudes about OHV use and the issues incorrect use can generate.



Thanks For the Photos!

I recently submitted a request for photos of ATV/Snowmobile Safety classes in action for use on the DNR website. Your response was great!! We now have a nice supply of recreational vehicle training pictures.

DID YOU KNOW??? - That the DNR Website link is now: www.mndnr.gov

The old link will still work but you may want to plug in the new one.



SNOWMOBILE FATALITIES Winter 2008-2009



Number of snowmobile fatalities	10
Number of injuries reported	170
Total number of accidents reported	201
Number of property damage only	39

1) 3/13/09 – 9:30 p.m. – Cook County

51-year-old male died when the snowmobile he was operating struck a tree. He was wearing a helmet.

Type of Terrain – Government Marked Trail
Snowmobile Certificate – yes

Type of Fatality – Struck a Fixed Object
Alcohol involved – pending results of testing

2) 3/2/09 – 9:11 p.m. – Redwood County

56-year-old male died when he lost control of the snowmobile he was operating, causing the snowmobile to roll, landing on the operator. He was wearing a helmet.

Type of Terrain – Lake or Stream
Snowmobile Certificate – no

Type of Fatality – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – no

3) 2/28/09 – 6:00 p.m. – Crow Wing County

55-year-old male died when he lost control of the snowmobile he was operating, causing him to be thrown from the machine. Operator died 4/7/09 as a result of injuries from the accident.

Type of Terrain – Private Marked Trail Type of Fatality – Operator Thrown From Machine
Snowmobile Certificate – no Alcohol involved - no

4) 2/22/09 – 2:30 a.m. – Otter Tail County

47-year-old male died when he lost control of the snowmobile he was operating, causing the snowmobile to roll, landing on the operator.

Type of Terrain – Private Unmarked Property
Snowmobile Certificate – yes

Type of Fatality - Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – BAC .306

5) 1/24/09 – 10:58 a.m. – Koochiching County

27-year-old male died when the snowmobile he was operating struck a tree.

Type of Terrain – Government Marked Trail
Snowmobile Certificate – yes

Type of Fatality – Struck a Fixed Object
Alcohol involved – BAC .16

6) 1/10/09 – 12:14 p.m. - Itasca County

52-year-old male died when the snowmobile he was operating left the Greenway Snowmobile Trail east of Grand Rapids and struck a tree.

Type of Terrain – Government Marked Trail
Snowmobile Certificate – yes

Type of Fatality – Struck a Fixed Object
Alcohol involved – no

7) 1/9/09 – 12:27 p.m. - Mille Lacs County

40-year-old male died when he lost control of the snowmobile he was operating and struck a tree. He was wearing a helmet.

Type of Terrain – Government Marked Trail
Snowmobile Certificate – no

Type of Fatality – Struck a Fixed Object
Alcohol involved – BAC .19





2008-2009 FATAL SNOWMOBILE ACCIDENTS



Number of Snowmobile Fatalities 10

8) 1/9/09 – 3:57 p.m. - Cass County

22-year-old male died when he lost control of the snowmobile he was operating and struck a tree.

Type of Terrain - Government Marked Trail

Type of Fatality – Struck a Fixed Object

Snowmobile Certificate – yes

Alcohol involved – pending results of testing

9) 12/28/08 – 4:15 p.m. – Crow Wing County

33-year-old male died when he lost control of the snowmobile he was operating and the machine overturned.

Type of Terrain – Government Marked Trail

Type of Fatality – Machine Rollover

Snowmobile Certificate – no

Alcohol involved – BAC .106

10) 12/11/08 – 4:54 p.m. - Wright County

38-year-old male died when the snowmobile he was operating on the Crow River struck a rock and he was thrown from his machine.

Type of Terrain – Lake or Stream

Type of Fatality – Struck a fixed object

Snowmobile Certificate - no

Alcohol involved – BAC .086





2008 FINAL SUMMARY OF FATAL ATV ACCIDENTS Number of ATV Fatalities 17



1) 10/23/08 – 7:51 p.m. – Mille Lacs County

55-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating rolled and landed on top of him.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way	Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – BAC .191	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

2) 10/16/08 – 5:18 p.m. - Wright County

15-year-old female died 10/26/08 when the ATV she was operating rolled and landed on top of her. There was a 6-year-old passenger who sustained minor injuries.

Type of Terrain – Private Unmarked Property	Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – no	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

3) 10/11/08 – 7:22 p.m. – Crow Wing County

43-year-old male died 10/16/08 as a result of injuries sustained when the ATV he was operating struck a deer.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way	Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – BAC .027	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate – no

4) 10/4/08 - 6 p.m. – Cass County

59-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating collided with another ATV on a county road.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way	Type of Accident – Machine-Machine Collision
Alcohol involved – BAC .071	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

5) 9/10/08 – 4:27 p.m. – Houston County

66-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating rolled and landed on top of him.

Type of Terrain – Private Unmarked Property	Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – no	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

6) 8/28/08 – 8:55 p.m. – Mille Lacs County

47-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating left the roadway and struck a tree.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way	Type of Accident – Struck Fixed Object
Alcohol involved – BAC .170	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate – no

7) 8/17/08 – 3:15 a.m. – Becker County

29-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating on a county road was hit by a truck.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way	Type of Accident – Machine-Car Collision
Alcohol involved – BAC .159	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

8) 8/9/08 – 9:30 p.m. – Hubbard County

13-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating flipped over into a ditch.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way	Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – no	All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate – no

9) 8/2/08 – 6:51 p.m. - Hubbard County

50-year-old female died when she lost control of the ATV she was operating and rolled in a ditch washout. A 21-year-old passenger was treated and released.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Loss of Control
Alcohol involved – no All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate – no

10) 6/26/08 – 9:33 p.m. - Carlton County

27-year-old male died when he lost control of the ATV he was operating, went off the road and hit a tree.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Struck Fixed Object
Alcohol involved – no All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

11) 6/2/08 – 9 p.m. – Brown County

14-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating hit a culvert and he was thrown from the machine. He was wearing a helmet.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – no All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

12) 5/20/08 – 12:46 p.m. – Crow Wing County

15-year-old female died 6/5/08 as a result of complications from injuries from an ATV accident in which she was a passenger.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – no All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate – no

13) 3/26/08 – 12:30 p.m. – Beltrami County

94-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating collided with a vehicle while crossing Hwy. 71.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Machine-Car Collision
Alcohol involved – no All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

14) 3/10/08 – 4:00 p.m. – Crow Wing County

56-year-old female died on 3/11/08 as a result of an ATV accident that occurred on 3/10/08 near South Long Lake, when the machine rolled over and she was thrown onto pavement.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – BAC .167 All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

15) 3/8/08 – 1:45 a.m. – Crow Wing County

21-year-old male died when he was thrown from the ATV he was a passenger on (along with several adult passengers) in a ditch near Brainerd International Raceway. The operator and other passengers all survived. The operator is being charged with vehicular homicide as a result of the accident.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – BAC .068 All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate - no

16) 2/23/08 – 3:56 p.m. – McLeod County

33-year-old male died when the ATV he was operating collided with another ATV on a curve on Crow River, causing the ATV to roll and the operator was thrown into the other ATV. Both drivers were wearing helmets. The other operator had serious injury to his arm.

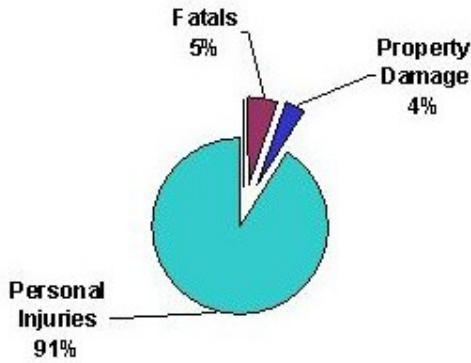
Type of Terrain – Lake or Stream Type of Accident – Machine-Machine Collision
Alcohol involved – no All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate – no

17) 1/7/08 – 4:59 p.m. – Otter Tail County

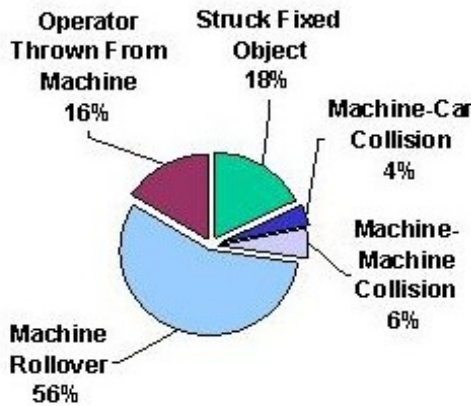
37-year-old male died when he lost control of the ATV he was operating, causing the ATV to roll into an oncoming lane and the driver was thrown from the vehicle.

Type of Terrain – Road Right of Way Type of Accident – Machine Rollover
Alcohol involved – BAC .12 All Terrain Vehicle Safety Certificate – no

ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATIONS



TYPE OF ACCIDENTS



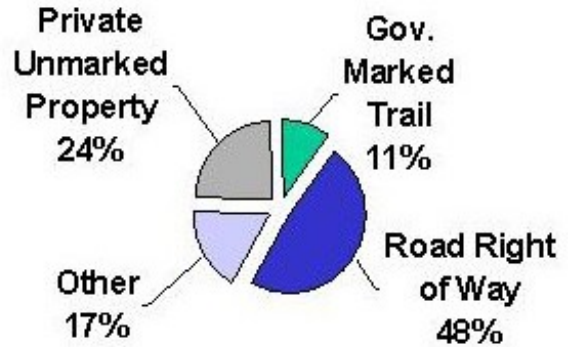
**Ride safe,
Ride Smart,
Always!**

**Set a good
Example!**

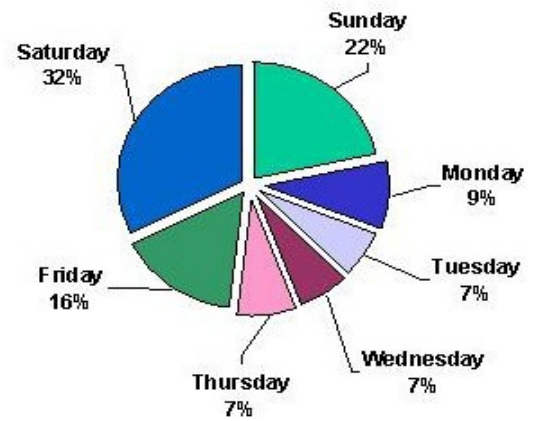
**Ex*am"ple\, n. -
That which is to
be followed or
imitated as a
model; a pat-
tern or copy.**

Webster's Revised Unabridged Dic-
tionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

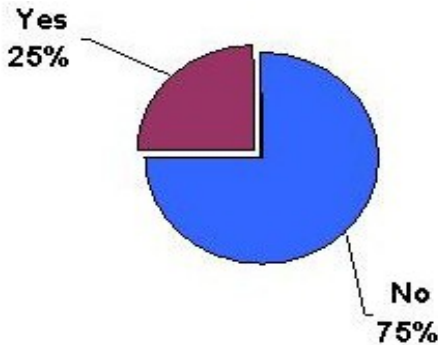
WHERE ACCIDENTS HAPPEN



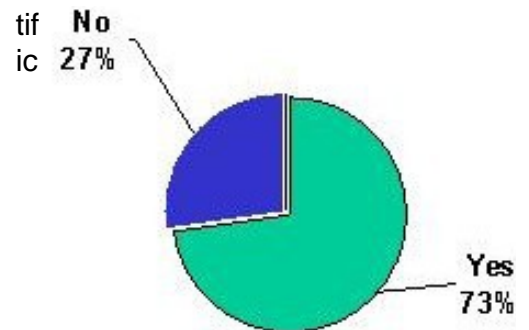
ACCIDENTS BY DAY



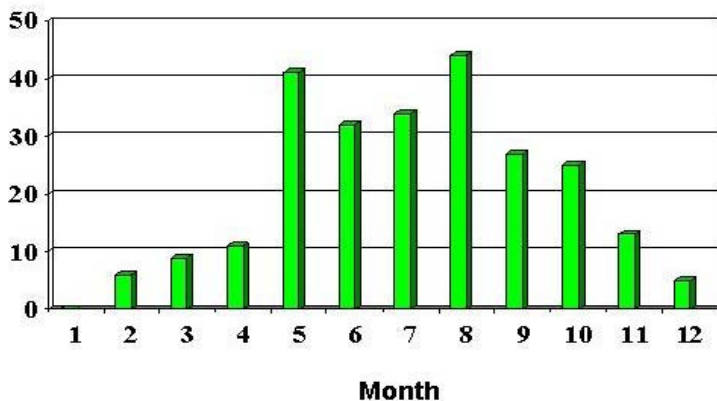
ALCOHOL INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS



ALCOHOL INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



2008 Total ATV Accidents By Month





PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOOSE LAKE MN
Permit NO. 100

**MINNESOTA DNR ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION
INSTRUCTOR**

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Enforcement, Education Section
15011 Hwy 115
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173
Phone: 1-800-366-8917
Fax: 320-616-2517
Email: enforcement.education@dnr.state.mn.us

*Modeling safe, responsible, &
ethical behaviors*



Websites and Information

INSTRUCTOR WEB PAGE:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/index.html

Register your class online &
sign up for 'Instructor News'
via E-mail!

**VISIT OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS ON THE
INTERNET**

*Minnesota United Snowmobile
Association can be found at:*
www.mnsnwmobiler.org

*All Terrain Vehicle Association of
Minnesota at:*
www.atvam.org

*International Snowmobile Manu-
facturers Assn. at:*
www.snowmobile.org

*American Council of Snowmobile
Associations at:*
www.snowmobilers.org

*International Snowmobile Hall of
Fame at:*
www.ishof.com

MN 4WD Association
www.mn4wda.com

ARMCA District 23
www.armca.org

*Canadian Council of Snowmobile
Organizations at:*
www.ccsoccom.ca

US ATV Accident Statistics
www.atvsafety.gov

*National Off-Highway Vehicle
Conservation Council*
<http://www.nohvcc.org>

**Thank You
for all of
your hard
work !**

**Student must be 11 or
older at the start of any
Snowmobile or ATV
Safety Training class.**

***Please notify us
of any change
in address that
you might have.***