

November 26, 2003

**SNOWMOBILE FATALITIES  
2002-2003 SEASON**

<b>Number of snowmobile fatalities</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Number of injuries reported</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Number of machines damaged</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total number of accidents reported</b>	<b>179</b>

**70% of the fatalities involved alcohol**

**23.2% of operators involved in injury or property damage accidents used alcohol**

12/14/2002, 10:33 p.m. – St. Louis County – Ely.

22 year old male operating a snowmobile was thrown from the snowmobile. The snowmobile was traveling Shagawa Lake at a high rate of speed. The snowmobile struck a rock by the shoreline, the right ski hit a hole and the snowmobile stopped. The operator was thrown from the machine and struck a rock with his head. The operator was not wearing a helmet. The operator died four days later from injuries sustained in the accident. Snowmobile safety certificate – yes. Alcohol involved – **BAC - .156.**

1/4/2003, 12:00 a.m. – St. Louis County – Kabetogama.

27 year old male operating a snowmobile was thrown from the snowmobile. The snowmobile was traveling on Lake Kabetogama when it struck an island. The operator was thrown 118 feet through the trees. Snowmobile safety certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC - .265.**

1/17/2003, 6:49 p.m. – Lake County – Silver Bay.

50 year old male operating a snowmobile struck a trail groomer. The snowmobile was traveling on a plowed resort road, hard packed with snow. The rear of the snowmobile slid to the left and struck a small power pole. The snowmobile continued to rotate and rolled over. The rear of the snowmobile struck a parked trail groomer, ejecting the operator. The operator struck the groomer face first, the helmet came off prior to striking the groomer. Snowmobile safety certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC - .33.**

1/18/2003, 1:45 p.m. – Cook County – Grand Marias.

16 year old male operating a snowmobile struck a pickup truck. The snowmobile was traveling partially on a roadway. The snowmobile attempted to negotiate a curve in the road when the machine partially turned sideways. The operator was ejected from the machine and thrown underneath an oncoming pickup. The operator was trapped underneath the vehicle's frame and axle. Snowmobile safety certificate – yes. Alcohol involved – no.

2002-2003 Snowmobile Fatality Summary (continued)

2/1/2003, unknown – Crow Wing County – Nisswa.

18 year old male operating a snowmobile in a field struck a tree. The operator was reported missing on 2/1/03, and was found the next day. Snowmobile safety certificate – yes. Alcohol involved – **BAC - .074.**

2/9/2003, 11:41 a.m. – Sherburne County – Orrock Township.

27 year old male operating a snowmobile struck a gate. The snowmobile was traveling with three other snowmobiles along a roadway. The snowmobiles were attempting to access a state trail. The fourth snowmobile had obstructed vision due to blowing snow and did not see a “road closed” gate in time to stop. The snowmobile struck the gatepost and the operator was thrown into the steel gate. Snowmobile safety certificate - no. Alcohol involved – not taken.

2/16/2003. 3:36 p.m. – Watonwan County – St. James.

9 year old male operating a snowmobile struck a road embankment. The snowmobile was traveling in a field, perpendicular to a county road. The snowmobile came down over a hill and the ski of the snowmobile hit the road embankment. The snowmobile flipped over and the operator was thrown from the machine. The operator and the snowmobile landed on the opposite side of the road embankment. The operator had not driven a snowmobile before. Snowmobile safety certificate – no. Alcohol involved – no.

2/26/2003, 9:29 p.m. – Lake County – Isabella.

40 year old male operating a snowmobile struck a tree. The snowmobile was traveling on a marked trail. The snowmobile left the trail on a curve, the ski sank into a small hole, and pulled the snowmobile into a tree. The operator was dead at the scene. Snowmobile safety certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC - .177.**

3/9/2003, 10:18 p.m. – Anoka County – Oak Grove.

40 year old male was thrown from the snowmobile he was operating. The snowmobile was traveling on Lake George when it struck a 307 pound rock near the boat launch at a high rate of speed. The impact launched the rock 29 feet in the air, and it rolled 10 additional feet after it landed. The snowmobile and the operator were thrown over a rock walkway. The operator died on impact. Snowmobile safety certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC - .189.**

3/10/2003, 2:03 a.m. – Martin County – Fairmont.

43 year old male was thrown from the snowmobile he was operating. The operator was traveling across Temperance Lake with a second snowmobile. The second operator lost sight of the first operator’s taillight and went to see what happened. The first snowmobile went up an embankment and the snowmobile went airborne. The snowmobile landed nose first and the operator was thrown from the machine. Snowmobile safety certificate – no. Alcohol involved – **BAC .11**