

**Chapter 302**  
**Regulations to the Use of**  
**Snowmobiles, All Terrain Vehicles, Off Road Vehicles & Motorcycles**

The Council of the City of Chisago City hereby ordains:

302.01 Definitions. For the purpose of this Section, the following terms have the meanings stated:

Subd. 1 Snowmobile. A self propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice and steered by skis or runners.

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV):

Class 1 ATV. A motorized flotation-tired vehicles with at least three but no more than six low pressure tires that have an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of less than 900 pounds.

Class 2 ATV. A motorized flotation-tired vehicles with at least three, but no more than six, low pressure tires that have an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of 900-1,500 pounds.

Off-highway motorcycles (OHMs). A motorized off-highway vehicle traveling on two wheels. OHMs have a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and have handlebars for steering control. Motorcycles may be legal for highway use and still considered to be OHMs if used for off-highway operation on trails or natural terrain.

Off-road vehicles (ORVs). A motorized recreational vehicle capable of cross-country travel on natural terrain, such as four-wheel-drive trucks. This does not include vehicles such as snowmobiles, ATVs, OHMs, motorcycles, watercraft or aircraft. Farm, logging, military, emergency, law enforcement, utility, trail grooming, and construction vehicles are not considered to be ORVs when used for their intended purpose.

Go-Cart. A motorized miniature vehicle capable of achieving speeds in excess of ten miles per hour and commonly used on courses or racetracks specifically designed for such vehicles.

Golf Carts. A motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour. Golf carts shall have no increased power, wheel base or tire modifications from a standard manufactured gas or electric golf cart.

Owner. A person, other than a lien holder, having the property in or title to a snowmobile, ATV, OHMs, ORV, or go-cart entitled to the use or possession thereof

Operate. To ride in or on and have control of the operation of the motorized snowmobile, ATV, OHMs, ORV, or go-cart.

Operator. Every person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile, ATV, OHMs, ORV, or go-cart.

Deadman Throttle or Safety Throttle. A device which when pressure is removed from the engine accelerator or throttle, causes the motor to stop supplying power.

Natural Terrain. Areas other than roadways, driveways (private or public), parking lots and other areas the surface of which has been intentionally modified for motor vehicle operation thereon.

Established Riding Area. Means trails or area on a lot used by a motorized snowmobile, ATV, OHMs, ORV, or go-cart.

Public Roads. Any township, municipal, county, state or federal road or highway.

Right-Of-Way. The entire strip of land traversed by any highway, street, county road or roadway easement for the purpose of vehicle travel, and includes the entire width of the land dedicated or acquired by law for right-of-away purposes.

Roadway. That portion of the improved right-of-way designed or ordinarily used for vehicle travel, including the shoulder.

302.02 Permitted Uses. Except as specifically permitted and authorized herein, it is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile, ATV, OHM, ORV, go-cart or golf cart under the following conditions within the City:

- A. On any right-of-way of any public highway, street, road, trail or alley, except that a snowmobile or Class 1 ATV may operate upon the most right hand side of a municipal street or alley and may in passing or making a left turn operate on other lanes which are used for vehicle traffic in the same direction, for purposes of going to or returning from a non-highway or non-county area of permissible operation, by the most direct route.
- B. Snowmobiles may be operated upon the ditch bottom or the outside bank of trunk county state-aid and county highways where such highways are so configured within the corporate limits.
- C. On a public sidewalk provided for pedestrian travel.
- D. On a trail not specified for snowmobile or ATV use.
- E. Snowmobiles, ATVs, and ORVs operating in Chisago City not licensed as a motor vehicle.
- F. On boulevards within any public right-of-way.
- G. On private property of another without specific permission of the owner or person in control of the property.
- H. On any other public place except as may be specifically permitted by other provisions of the City.
- I. Snowmobiles and Class 1 ATVs shall not exceed a speed of 20 m.p.h. on local city streets unless specifically posted.
- J. In a manner so as to create loud, unnecessary or unusual noise so as to disturb or interfere with the peace and quiet of another persons.
- K. In a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger, or be likely to endanger, the safety of any person or property of any other person.
- L. At any place while under the influence of alcohol or drugs as defined in Minn. Stat. 169.121.
- M. Nothing in this ordinance shall prohibit the agricultural use of an all-terrain vehicle in the right-of-ways, as defined in the Minnesota Statue 84.92, Subd. 1d, or the use an all-terrain vehicle to maintain permitted accesses over Public Road Right-of-way.
- N. Nothing in this ordinance is intended to prohibit the crossing of a City or County Right-of-Way, which

is otherwise allowed by Minnesota Statutes 84.87 and 84.928.

- O. Nothing in this ordinance is intended to prohibit the operation of a snowmobile upon the shoulder, inside bank, or slope of any public highway, street, road, trail, or alley as permitted by Minnesota Statute 84.87, Subd. 3.

302.03 Crossing of Streets or Highways. A snowmobile or Class 1 ATV may make a direct crossing of a street or highway, other than an interstate highway or freeway, provided:

- A. The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the street or highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- B. The snowmobile or Class 1 ATV first comes to a complete stop at the edge of the shoulder of the main traveled way.
- C. The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard.
- D. In crossing a divided street or highway, the crossing made only at the intersection of such street or highway with another public street or highway.
- E. If the crossing is made between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise or, in conditions of reduced visibility, both front and rear lights shall be on.

302.04 Traffic Ordinance Applicable. City and State traffic regulations shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles upon streets and highways, except for those relating to required equipment, those which by their nature have no application and those inconsistent with the provisions herein.

302.05 Yielding Right-of-Way. No snowmobile or ATV shall enter any intersection without yielding the right-of-way to any vehicles or pedestrians at the intersection, or so cross the intersection as to constitute an immediate hazard.

302.06 Operation. Persons under 18 years of age.

- A. No person under 14 years of age shall operate a snowmobile or ATV on local city streets or the roadway surface of highways or make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state aid, county highway, or city streets.
- B. A person 14 years of age or older, but less than 18 years of age, may operate a snowmobile on local city streets and highways as permitted under this Section and make a direct crossing of the streets and highways only if he/she has in his/her immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the Commissioner, as provided by Minnesota Statute 84.87.
- C. Any person operating an ATV in Chisago City must possess a valid driver's license or safety certificate as required by the Minnesota Statute 84.9256.
- D. A person under 18 years of age operating a snowmobile or ATV on local city streets or frozen waters must wear approved helmet.

302.07 Golf carts and Class 1ATVs for the physically handicapped persons may be operated on city streets with a city permit. The permit is a period not to exceed one year and may be renewed annually. The permits are exempt from registration tax, but must display the triangular slow-moving vehicles emblem. A driver's license is not required.

302.08 Established Riding Area.

- A. The use of an OHM, ORV, or go-cart is not allowed on a lot or parcel of land of less than one (1) acres in size.

- B. A motorized OHM, ORV, or go-cart may be used on a riding track on lots of five (5) acres or greater in size located within the city on the condition that the riders shall adhere to the following:
  - 1. Established Riding Area for a motorized dirt bike, go-cart, snowmobile and/or all-terrain vehicle is to be located no closer than three hundred feet (300') from a neighboring building occupied by humans or livestock.
  - 2. Dust and noise control measures are to be maintained. If other properties are adversely affected by dust and noise due to motorized dirt bike, go-cart, snowmobile and/or all-terrain vehicles use. The owners affected must file a written complaint with the City Police Department.
    - a). Dust control measures shall include, but are not limited to, the planting of eight foot (8') high coniferous trees planted ten feet (10') on center, or the construction of a six foot (6') maximum board on board style fence.
    - b). A motorized OHM, ORV, or go-cart must have a factory approved exhaust. The noise emission may not exceed one hundred five (105) decibels at a distance of 20 inches during operation, and mufflers may not be altered to increase motor noise, or have a cut out bypass, or similar device.
  - 3. No more than four (4) riders may operate a motorized dirt bike, go-cart, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicles on the property. A motorized dirt bike, go-cart, snowmobile, and/or all-terrain vehicle may only be operated on the property during the following times: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. Operation of a motorized dirt bike, go-cart, snowmobile and/or all-terrain vehicle must cease for a minimum of one (1) hour after every two hours of riding.
  - 4. Operation of a motorized dirt bike, go-cart, snowmobile and/or all-terrain vehicle shall not be allowed on either primary or secondary septic sites.

302.09 Uses Specifically Prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile or ATV under the following conditions:

- A. At any place while under the influence of alcohol or drugs as defined in Minnesota Statute 169.211 which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.
- B. At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all surrounding circumstances.
- C. At any place in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner or heedlessly in disregard of the rights or safety of others, or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger or cause injury or damage to any person or property.
- D. No person shall operate a snowmobile or Class 1 ATV on any street in the City between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., except going to or from their usual place of abode at a reduced speed and using the most direct route.
- E. So as to tow any person or thing except through use of a rigid tow bar attached to the rear of the snowmobile or ATV.
- F. Within 100 feet of any fisherman, pedestrian, skating rink or sliding area where the operation would conflict with use or endanger other persons or property, or within 100 feet of any dwelling which is usually occupied by one or more persons.

302.10 Equipment Required. It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile or ATV any place within the limits of the City unless it is equipped with the following:

- A. Standard mufflers which are properly attached and which reduce the noise of operation of the motor to the minimum necessary for operation.
- B. No person shall use a muffler cut-out, bypass straight pipe or similar device on a snowmobile or ATV motor.

- C. Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the snowmobile or ATV under any conditions of operation.
  - D. A safety or so-called “deadman” throttle in operating condition.
  - E. When operated between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise or at a time of reduced visibility at least one clear lamp attached to the front, with sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead during the hours of darkness and under normal atmospheric conditions. The headlamp shall be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of an oncoming snowmobile or ATV operator. It shall also be equipped with at least one red tail lamp having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to exhibit a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear during hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions.
  - F. Reflective material at least 16 inches square on each side, forward of the handlebars or steering device of a snowmobile or ATV and at the highest practical point on any towed object, as to reflect light at a 90 degree angle.
- 302.11 Ignition Lock. Every person leaving a snowmobile or ATV on a public place or way shall lock the ignition, and remove and take the keys with them.
- 302.12 Emergencies. Operation Permitted: Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Section, a snowmobile may be operated on a public thoroughfare in an emergency during the period of time and at locations where snow upon the roadways renders travel by an automobile impractical.
- 302.13 Uses Prohibited. Animals. It is unlawful to intentionally drive, chase, run over or kill any animal with a snowmobile or ATV.
- 302.14 Exemptions  
The following uses are exempt from this Ordinance:
- A. Any motorized vehicles used for the purpose of property maintenance.
  - B. Any agent or employee of any road authority, law enforcement or public safety agency, or any agent or employee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or any other governmental body in conducting official business.
  - C. Any organized track-racing event that is required to be registered with the DNR.
- 302.15 Signal from Officer to Stop. It is unlawful for a snowmobile operator, after having received a visual or audible signal from a law enforcement officer, to operate the vehicle in willful or wanton disregard of the signal to stop, interfere with or endanger the law enforcement officer or any other person or vehicle, or increase speed or attempt to flee or elude the officer. Any person attempting to flee an officer in or on any motorized vehicle is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and punishable thereto.
- 302.16 Penalty for Violation. Any person who violates the provisions of Chapter 302, excluding Subd. 302.12, of the City Code shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$200.00. Any person who violates Subd. 302.12 shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and punishable according to Minnesota Statute 609.487.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

(Ordinance Amendment Chapter 302: 11/10/2008)