

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

# NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release, Jan 11, 2012*

*For more information contact Matt Gardner at 701-328-5357*

## International Snowmobile Safety Week, Jan. 15-21

International Snowmobile Safety Week is Jan. 15-21, and although, there is a lack of snow across the state, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department wants to remind all to keep snowmobiling safe.

“Safe Snowmobiling means riding within your own capabilities, operating at safe and appropriate speeds for the terrain, and never drinking alcoholic beverages before or while driving,” says Matt Gardner, Outdoor Recreation Trainer for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. “Always wear a helmet and adequate clothing, stay within designated riding areas, and always snowmobile with another person, never alone.”

Occasionally problems do occur, and snowmobilers should be prepared for all possibilities.

“Take along a spare belt, spark plugs and tools to do basic repairs. You also should carry emergency supplies, such as a basic first aid kit and overnight survival provisions such as food, matches, flashlight, extra batteries, and shelter building materials,” Gardner recommends. “Most importantly, always use common sense and keep a clear head. Learn all you can about responsible snowmobiling and keep safety your top priority.”

Remember, youth ages 12 and older are required to have a snowmobile safety certification to ride on public lands. Go to [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) to find a safety class in your area.

Test your snowmobile safety skills by visiting the North Dakota’s snowmobile association website at [www.snowmobilend.org](http://www.snowmobilend.org) and click on the Safety Education page to take a free safety quiz.