



CONTINENTAL

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DINIDE

Wear layers of clothing so that you can add or remove a layer or two to match changing conditions. Remember, Wyoming weather can change several times a day! Be prepared. Wear a helmet and adequate eye protection. Wind, snow and sun can be hard on your eyes without a face shield or sun glasses.

SAFETY ISSUES

AVALANCHE

There is little danger of avalanches on the marked trails. However, for off-trail travel, be aware of the topographic features and snow and weather conditions that increase sliding potential.

ALCOHOL AND SNOWMOBILING SIMPLY DO NOT MIX

Forget the myth that alcohol warms up a chilled person. It opens the blood vessels and removes the feeling of chill but it does nothing to increase body heat. Instead, it can increase the risk of hypothermia, a dangerous lowering of the body's core temperature.

Alcohol increases fatigue, fogs your ability to make good decisions and slows your reaction time. It's part of a formula for disaster, and drinking and driving is against the law!

HYPOTHERMI

HYPOTHERMIAExposure could be a substitute word for "hypothermia" and is associated with winter. Problems caused by exposure, how-

ever, occur during times when the weather is not extremely cold.

Four primary factors contribute to hypothermia: cold (not necessarily severe), wetness (rain, snow, water immersion or condensed perspiration), wind (chill factor), and exhaustion and/or lack of preparedness. Symptoms include uncontrolled shivering, vague or slurred speech, fumbling hands or stumbling gait, memory lapses, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion.

Combat hypothermia by being prepared with high quality,

insulated clothing (wool or synthetic fibers), adequate knowledge and emergency rations.

ICE FOLLIES

Drowning is a leading cause of snowmobile fatalities. Wherever possible, avoid riding on frozen lakes and rivers because ice conditions are never a safe bet. If you must cross ice, check it out first on foot. Stay on the packed or marked trail. Don't stop until you reach shore. If you hit slush, don't let off the throttle. If you are following someone who hits slush, veer off to make your own path. As a rule of thumb, "If you don't know, don't go".

WHITEOUT CONDITIONS

Whiteout can occur when a sudden snowstorm hits you. The snow falls so heavily that visibility is zero. Experience cannot prevent you from getting lost during a whiteout. If you're caught in the middle of one, the best bet is to stop and STAY WITH YOUR MACHINE. Wait until the condition lessens.

FLAT LIGHT

This white-against-white situation makes it difficult to judge distances and changes in the terrain, particularly when traveling on a rapidly moving vehicle. Reduce your speed, keep a sharp eye out for abrupt drop-offs or other changes in terrain. Stay on the trail. Wear amber lensed glasses or face shield to increase contrast and improve visibility.

FROSTBI Frost

Frostbite is caused by exposure of inadequately protected flesh to subfreezing temperatures. Tissue damage occurs because of reduced blood flow to the extremities. Symptoms include loss of feeling and a dead-white appearance of the skin. Treatment: restore body temperature as rapidly as possible by providing external heat. Immerse affected parts in a water bath of less than 110 degrees, use a hot water bottle or heat from a campfire. Affected parts should be covered. Do not rub or apply pressure to affected areas and do not apply snow or attempt to thaw in cold water.

MAINTENANCE

You have two good guides available for snowmobile maintenance: the owner's manual that came with your machine and your dealer. Consult both to make sure your machine is kept in top form for dependable, enjoyable fun.

TAKE A FRIEND

Don't snowmobile alone. Not only is snowmobiling more fun with family and friends, it's safer too.

Weekly snowmobile trail conditions - 307-777-6323
Wyoming Tourism Information - 307-777-7777
Avalanche Center for Northwestern Wyoming - 307-733-2664
http://wyotrails.state.wy.us

