



Safe Snowmobiling in Ontario

(Barrie, ON. December 31, 2009) – The recent avalanche tragedy in Sparwood, B.C. involving seven snowmobilers made headlines nationally and raised questions about snowmobiling safety that have reverberated into Ontario. Every member of our snowmobiling community shares the pain and grief felt by the families and friends of the avalanche victims and our hearts go out to them.

Snowmobiling in Ontario, where we have no real mountains or any avalanches, is very different from riding in British Columbia. The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) reassures snowmobilers and the public that recreational riding on open OFSC trails continues to be the safest way to enjoy snowmobiling anywhere in North America. The OFSC operates 40,000 kilometres of marked, mapped and maintained trails where snowmobilers travel over 150 million kilometres each winter and 99.99% return home safely from every ride.

Since 1993, the OFSC has developed public education and safety programs that promote responsible and family trail riding, which is very different than extreme backcountry, cross country or mountain riding. The OFSC safety message includes constant reminders that snowmobiling, like many other outdoor recreational activities, occurs in an unpredictable and uncontrollable natural setting with many inherent risks posed by Mother Nature. In addition to riding on OFSC trails, snowmobilers can considerably reduce these risks by properly planning and preparing for each ride, by obeying the laws related to snowmobiling, and by making smart choices while riding with care and control.

Through its Go Snowmobiling Campaign, the OFSC invites everyone who loves winter to get out and ride our trails this winter to experience for yourself just how safe and enjoyable OFSC snowmobiling is. To find out more, including Trail Status Reports, click on www.ofsc.on.ca

The OFSC is committed to proactive leadership in promoting safe, responsible riding, on and off Ontario snowmobile trails, by building safer snowmobiling knowledge, attitudes and behaviours through rider education, safety legislation development and enforcement.

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*For more OFSC Provincial Snowmobile Safety Week info,
please contact Leta Elsner at 705.739.7669*