

CHAPTER 75

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES

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75.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the operation of all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles within the City.

75.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

1. “All-terrain vehicle” or “ATV” means a motorized flotation-tire vehicle, with not less than three (3) and not more than six (6) low pressure tires, that is limited in engine displacement to less than one thousand (1,000) cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to less than one thousand (1,000) pounds and that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.1)

2. “Off-road motorcycle” means a two-wheeled motor vehicle that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control and that is intended by the manufacturer for use on natural terrain. “Off-road motorcycle” includes a motorcycle that was originally issued a certificate of title and registered for highway use under Chapter 321 of the Code of Iowa, but which contains design features that enable operation over natural terrain. An operator of an off-road motorcycle is also subject to the provisions of this chapter governing the operation of all-terrain vehicles.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.1)

3. “Off-road utility vehicle” means a motorized flotation-tire vehicle, with not less than four (4) and not more than six (6) low pressure tires, that is limited in engine displacement to less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to not more than one thousand eight hundred (1,800) pounds and that has a seat that is of bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel for control. An operator of an off-road utility vehicle is also subject to the provisions of this chapter governing the operation of all-terrain vehicles.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.1)

4. “Snowmobile” means a motorized vehicle weighing less than one thousand (1,000) pounds which uses sled-type runners or skis, endless belt-

type tread with a width of forty-eight (48) inches or less, or any combination of runners, skis or tread, and is designed for travel on snow or ice. "Snowmobile" does not include an all-terrain vehicle which has been altered or equipped with runners, skis, belt-type tracks or treads.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.1)

75.03 GENERAL REGULATIONS. No person shall operate an ATV, off-road motorcycle or off-road utility vehicle within the City in violation of Chapter 321I of the Code of Iowa or a snowmobile within the City in violation of the provisions of Chapter 321G of the Code of Iowa or in violation of rules established by the Natural Resource Commission of the Department of Natural Resources governing their registration, equipment and manner of operation.

(Code of Iowa, Ch. 321G & Ch. 321I)

75.04 OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILES. The operators of snowmobiles shall comply with the following restrictions as to how snowmobiles may be operated within the City:

1. Streets and Alleys. Snowmobiles may be operated upon streets or alleys only if covered with snow and only for the purpose of using the most direct roadway for ingress to and egress from the City or for an emergency when travel by conventional motor vehicles is impractical due to snow. No snowmobiles shall be driven on streets or alleys solely for entertainment or pleasure.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4a])

2. Speed. While operating a snowmobile the speed of any snowmobile shall be no faster than ten miles less than the posted speed for the street, or twenty miles per hour, whichever is less.

3. Railroad Right-of-way. Snowmobiles shall not be operated on an operating railroad right-of-way. A snowmobile may be driven directly across a railroad right-of-way only at an established crossing and notwithstanding any other provisions of law may, if necessary, use the improved portion of the established crossing after yielding to all oncoming traffic.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.13[1h])

4. Trails. Snowmobiles shall not be operated on all-terrain vehicle trails except where so designated.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4f])

5. Parks and Other City Land. Snowmobiles shall not be operated in any park, playground or upon any other City-owned property without the express permission of the City. A snowmobile shall not be operated on any City land without a snow cover of at least one-tenth of one inch.

6. Sidewalk or Parking. Snowmobiles shall not be operated upon the public sidewalk or that portion of the street located between the curb line and the sidewalk or property line commonly referred to as the “parking” except for purposes of crossing the same to a public street upon which operation is authorized by this chapter.

75.05 HOURS OF OPERATION. Snowmobiles shall be operated only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., except that a snowmobile operating outside of the City limits after 10:00 p.m. may proceed by the closest permitted street and most direct street directly home after such time.

75.06 THAW BAN. Snowmobiles shall not be operated during a publicized thaw ban in areas posted to prohibit such operation.

75.07 OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES. The operators of ATVs shall comply with the following restrictions as to where ATVs may be operated within the City:

1. Streets. ATVs may be operated on streets only in accordance with Section 321.234A of the Code of Iowa or on such streets as may be designated by resolution of the Council for the sport of driving ATVs.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.10[1 & 3])

2. Trails. ATVs shall not be operated on snowmobile trails except where designated.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.10[4])

3. Railroad Right-of-way. ATVs shall not be operated on an operating railroad right-of-way. An ATV may be driven directly across a railroad right-of-way only at an established crossing and notwithstanding any other provisions of law may, if necessary, use the improved portion of the established crossing after yielding to all oncoming traffic.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.14[h])

4. Parks and Other City Land. ATVs shall not be operated in any park, playground or upon any other City-owned property without the express permission of the City.

5. Sidewalk or Parking. ATVs shall not be operated upon the public sidewalk or that portion of the street located between the curb line and the sidewalk or property line commonly referred to as the “parking.”

75.08 NEGLIGENCE. The owner and operator of an ATV or snowmobile are liable for any injury or damage occasioned by the negligent operation of the ATV or snowmobile. The owner of an ATV or snowmobile shall be liable for any such injury or damage only if the owner was the operator of the ATV or snowmobile at

the time the injury or damage occurred or if the operator had the owner's consent to operate the ATV or snowmobile at the time the injury or damage occurred.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.18 & 321I.19)

75.09 ACCIDENT REPORTS. Whenever an ATV or snowmobile is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to anyone or property damage amounting to one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) or more, either the operator or someone acting for the operator shall immediately notify a law enforcement officer and shall file an accident report, in accordance with State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.10 & 321I.11)