



OH&S Safety Matters

January Issue 2021



Safety Matters is dedicated to you !

Here at the OH&S Registry we know that people expect a lot from safety instructors and we want to take this opportunity to say thanks to the entire OH&S Registry Instructor membership. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you! You have done some remarkable work and you continue to amaze us with the impressive skills you bring to teaching safety. ***Thank you for your dedication!***

Instructors are leaders in the workplace and we understand that a safe place to work is also a productive place to work. However, we also know that a good leader will take the time to see that co-workers are actually following their lead. Safety requires everyone on the job site to work together. ***Safety Matters*** to us all and teaching safety to a new generation of workers really does make a difference. The good news is that you are not alone. The OH&S Instructor Registry is on your team and we share the commitment to help ensure the health and safety of every employee in your workplace through the use of meaningful and effective safety training.

We look forward to serving you throughout the new year!

When employees truly understand the importance of safety, they will exhibit positive safety behaviours, such as wearing necessary PPE without being asked, or completing risk assessments for all jobs, it will inevitably have an impact on a company's safety culture because positive behaviours and attitudes continue to be reinforced. Safety assessments provide details about safety performance gaps and the results of a gap analysis should be used to drive the resolutions needed for the coming year. Workplace safety resolutions start by defining safety goals.

A notable 2021 workplace resolution for everyone this year is to stay healthy and safe on the job without a single serious injury.

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Snowmobile Operator Training

The use of Off-road vehicles (ORVs) is increasing for work, for leisure and for commuting purposes. The sectors that are relying more and more on ORV's includes forestry, farming, pipelines and tourism.

BC's Off-Road Vehicle Management framework promotes the safe and responsible use of ORVs and now has an expanded definition that applies to a wide range of vehicles operated on Crown land both for work and leisure, that includes Snowmobiles.

In all circumstances, a valid driver's licence continues to be required for all snowmobile motorists operating on public roads and highways and on forest service roads.

The OH&S Registry has developed a **Snowmobile Operator** program designed to promote safe work practices and procedures that will enhance worker safety.

The employer as well as those who make decisions that directly affect the safety of workers are responsible for ensuring that all employees including contractors receive adequate instruction, are appropriately equipped and are accounted for while engaged in work that includes the operation of a Snowmobile.

Only qualified personnel who have been trained in the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with the operation of a snowmobile should be assigned to ride them.

There are many different types of snowmobiles available and their

features and specifications depend on the purpose they were designed for. Some snowmobiles are used primarily as transport vehicles while others are designed for utility /work aspects.

• Work / Utility Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles are not just used for commuting, utility snowmobiles are used by people who need the snowmobiles for carrying out their daily tasks. These snowmobiles have longer and wider frames than their counterparts. The suspension is also designed for heavy duty workloads and can haul a decent amount of cargo. They also have a hitch for towing sleds behind them.

• Trail Snowmobiles

Trail snowmobiles are one of the most basic types of snowmobiles. They are primarily meant for commuting and transportation.

• Touring Snowmobiles

A touring snowmobile is designed to carry a passenger and is ideal for riders who often travel in pairs over significant distances.

• Performance Snowmobiles

Performance snowmobiles are designed for one thing, to deliver

the best possible raw performance. Performance Snowmobiles should only be purchased by snowmobile riders with plenty of experience.

• Crossover Snowmobiles

Crossover snowmobiles are designed to operate equally well on groomed trails as well as for off-trail backcountry exploration.

• Mountain Snowmobiles

A mountain snowmobile has been designed for ascending mountain slopes. They are not as comfortable as trail or touring snowmobiles, they can't reach the top speeds of a



performance snowmobile and they are not ideal for flat trails.

Common work related uses for Utility Snowmobiles include;

- Border patrol and security,
- Construction operations,
- Emergency medical response,
- Land management and surveying,
- Law enforcement,
- Military operations,
- Mineral and oil exploration,
- Pipeline maintenance,
- Ranching and farming,
- Search and rescue,
- Small-scale forestry activities,
- Wildland fire control.

Snowmobile manufacturers don't dispute that their machines can roll or flip. Instead, they describe Snowmobile's as "rider-active." This means that it is up to the operator to keep the Snowmobile upright by shifting their body weight from side to side or front to back.

What keeps the operator safe is a combination of preventive measures, good operating skill, and well maintained equipment, and in the event that something does go wrong, protective clothing.

The operator of a snowmobile must

operate the equipment safely, maintain full control of the machine and comply with the laws governing the operation of the snowmobile.

Managing risk means making good decisions and the operation of a snowmobile during a work activity involves the interaction of three key elements:

- Personal ability;
- The capability of the Snowmobile,
- Environment or terrain conditions.

All employees must be trained to recognize the hazards and risk that they are exposed to. Always carry the required and recommended safety equipment such as a first aid kit, a survival kit, a tool kit with spare parts and communication equipment appropriate for the area (radio, satellite phone, mobile/cell phone). Depending on the location, it may be necessary to carry extra water and food, an axe, towing rope and signal flares.

Look to OH&S Safety for your education needs.

Instructor Certification is available so you can deliver the Training your team needs !



Instructor Certification

When workers need to learn a safety skill, instructor-led training is the superior option. The benefit to workers participating in Instructor-led training is that it facilitates in-depth discussions of complicated safety issues allowing for direct response from a skilled, practiced and certified instructor.

Workers also benefit from their interactions with their fellow co-workers as questions and comments made about the training are discussed. When a specific safety skill set must be learned, instructor-led training and hands-on practice fulfills worker continuing education needs.

As always, we thank you for your continued dedication to safety training and we look forward to serving you!

New Worker Training

This responsibility is most often delegated to the supervisor. Changing technology, legislation and industry standards all require workers to have up-to-date information, relevant knowledge and skills.

New and inexperienced workers tend to have more incidents than other workers. Orientation and induction programs are valuable assets in preventing incidents. Orientation sessions explain the job, the supervisory structure, the function of the work unit and various policies and rules. Keep records for the training that each worker receives.

Don't expect new workers to remember everything they are told at orientation. Partnering the new worker with an experienced, safety conscious worker will help to reinforce the orientation.



Supervise the new worker closer than experienced workers until you are assured the worker can work alone safely. Training is needed to build safety into daily activities, update correct work practices and to keep ahead of new technology and standards changes. Regulations obligate employers to ensure supervisors, and workers are all trained.

Get Instructor Certification so that you can deliver the Safety Training you need on your job site!



2021 e-Catalog is Available

Are you ready to tap into a wider network of training programs. Get access to 100% of the OH&S safety training programs by simply sending an e-mail and asking for a FREE copy of the OH&S training course library!

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Staying in Touch

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The OH&S Registry will never sell or rent your email address and should you decide that you no longer want to receive further electronic communications from the OH&S Registry we will accommodate your decision to "unsubscribe".

We trust you will choose to continue to receive the *OH&S Safety Matters* newsletters and other promotional materials so you can stay up to date on new programs, best practice tips, and other OH&S Registry news.

We appreciate your business, and look forward to working with you to achieve your safety training goals. Thank you for being a subscriber!



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