

# WISCONSIN SNOWMOBILE SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT



2015-2016

ANNUAL REPORT



*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

*Bureau of Law Enforcement*

PUBLE203 2016



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## PROGRAM MANAGERS MESSAGE

Unfortunately, Wisconsin experienced another low snow season. Marginal snowmobiling opportunities existed in the far northern areas of the state with trails barely opening in the south.

There were 835 active volunteer snowmobile safety instructors that certified 3737 students, 3114 students were certified via online courses. Despite the poor snow conditions Wisconsin had 9 fatal snowmobile crashes, down from 12 the previous season. Speed, alcohol and nighttime continue to be the biggest contributing factors.

The Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) was successful in getting a new trail pass requirement implemented for all Wisconsin Public Use registered snowmobiles. Previously only non-resident snowmobiles were required to purchase trail passes. The new trail pass is \$10.00 for current members of a Wisconsin snowmobile club affiliated with AWSC and \$30.00 for non-members. Mixed comments were received regarding the new trail pass. Some in favor and some against. All snowmobilers should be reminded that this new trail pass requirement will be revisited by the state legislature after 2018-19 season and decide whether to make it permanent or not.

For the third year in a row, legislation was introduced that would have tied in all recreational vehicle operating while intoxicated (OWI) violations for all terrain vehicle, utility terrain vehicle, boat and snowmobile with a person's motor vehicle driver's license. Penalties would also result in a loss of all recreational vehicle operating privileges for OWI and result in revocation of the driver's license for a second offense OWI on any recreational vehicle with a five year period. This legislation was not enacted.

Keep your fingers crossed for a lot of snow in the future. Remember to operate within your abilities, stay on your side of the trail and never drink alcohol while operating a snowmobile. Practice "Zero Alcohol" which is a personal choice to not drink any amount of alcohol until you are done operating all motorized vehicle for the day.

Thanks and be safe!

Gary Eddy

Snowmobile Safety Administrator

WI DNR

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

### Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration

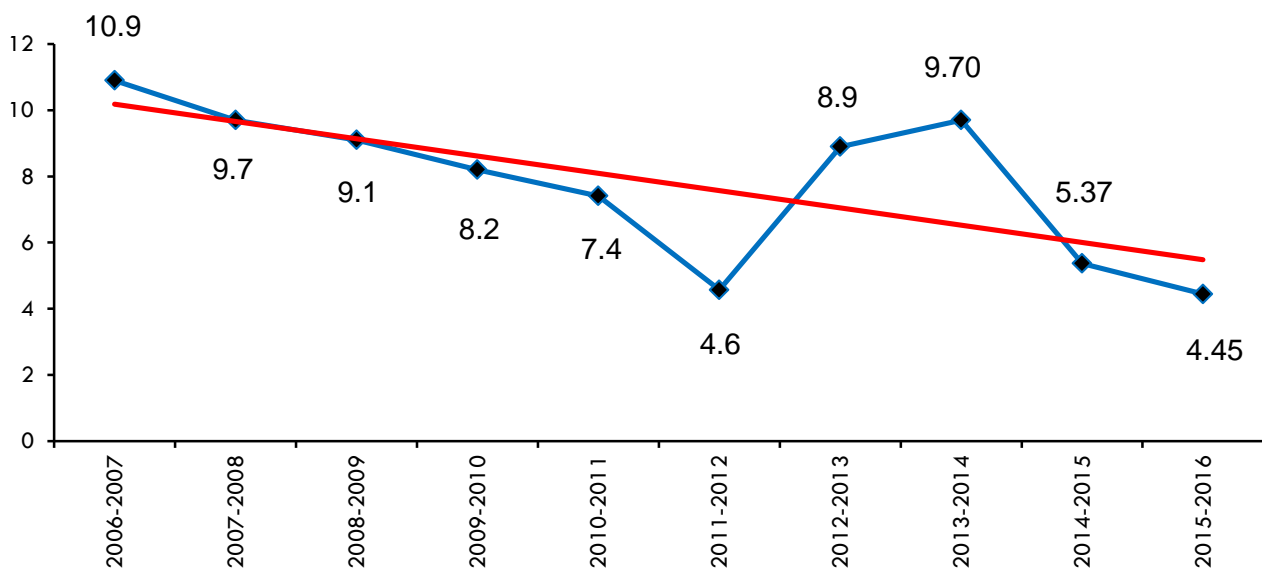
A snowmobile crash incident is any incident (regardless of the number of vehicles involved) that results in a fatality or an injury that requires medical treatment by a physician.

Wisconsin law requires every snowmobile operator involved in a crash incident to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. In addition, **within 10 days** of the incident, the operator must submit a written report on [Form 4100-174](#) to the Department of Natural Resources.

Over the past 10 years there has been a slight decreasing trend in the number of fatalities per 100,000 registered snowmobile (does not include snowmobile trail passes). This trend may be based on the increasing number of registered snowmobiles.

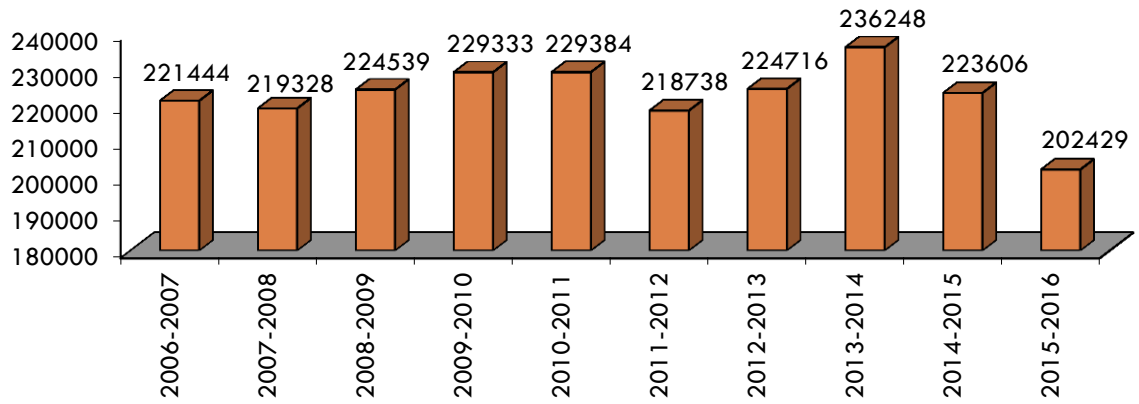
*The following statistical information was compiled from data collected from the 9 fatal accident investigations during the winter of 2015-16.*

**SNOWMOBILE FATALITIES PER 100,000 REGISTRATIONS**



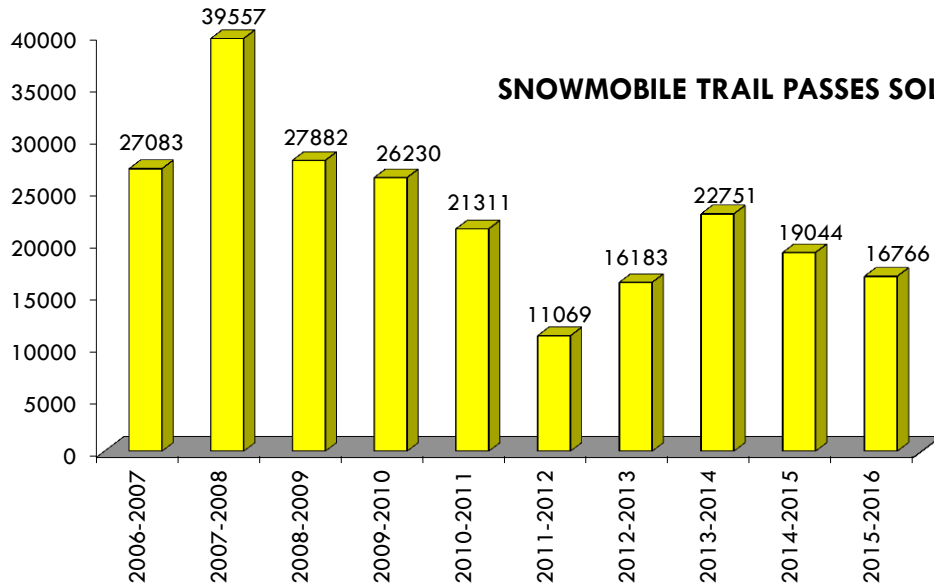
**WISCONSIN RESIDENT SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATIONS**

There were 202,429 registrations for the 2015/2016 season.



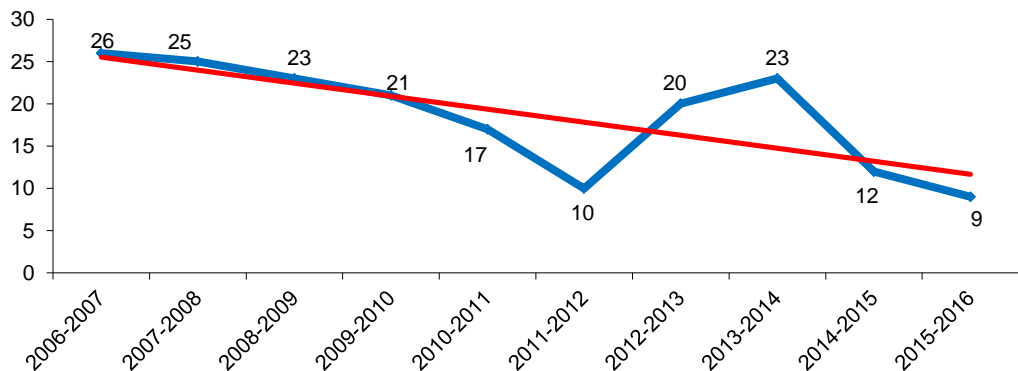
Registrations include public use, private use, municipal use, commercial use and antique snowmobiles.

**SNOWMOBILE TRAIL PASSES SOLD**

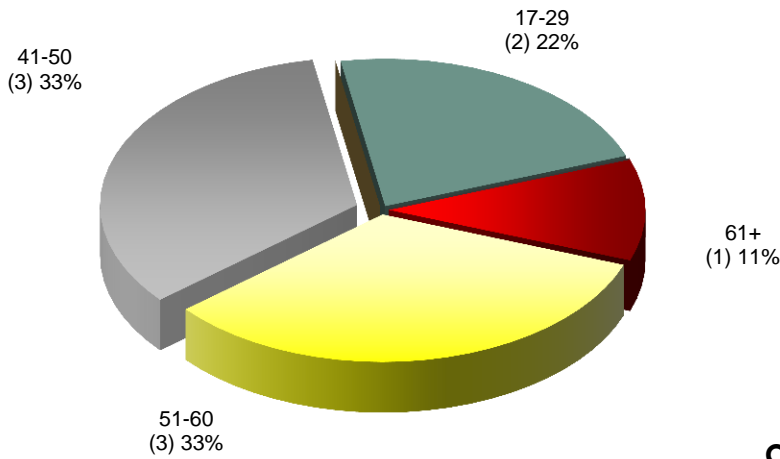


**HISTORY OF SNOWMOBILE FATALITIES**

Wisconsin had 9 snowmobile fatalities, 3 less than the previous year.

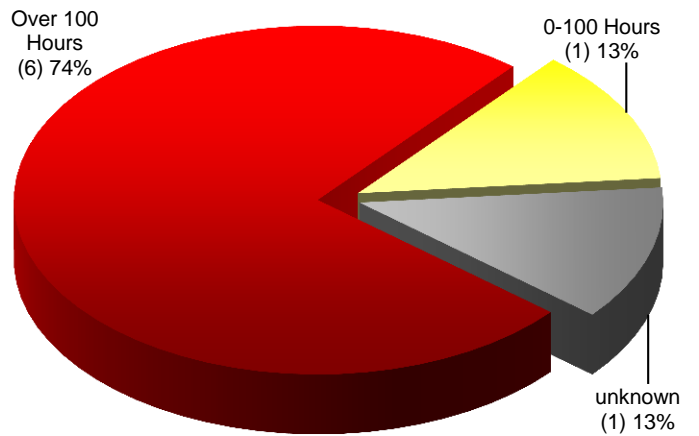


### AGE OF VICTIM

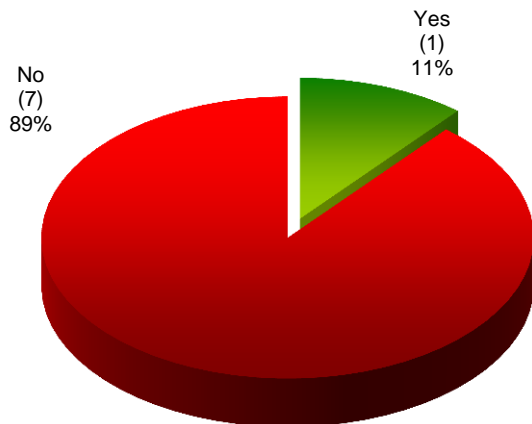


74% of the operators involved in fatal accidents reportedly had over 100 hours of experience operating a snowmobile.

### OPERATOR EXPERIENCE



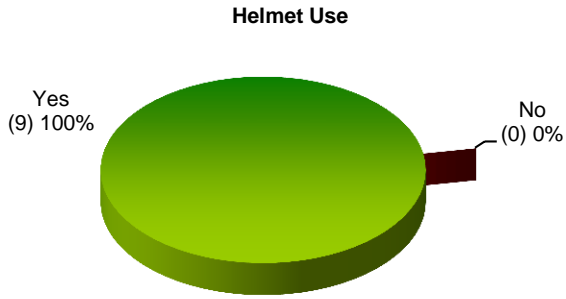
### OPERATOR WAS SNOWMOBILE SAFETY CERTIFIED



One of the contributing factors to snowmobile fatalities is the operator not being snowmobile safety certified. 89% of the operators involved in a fatal accident had not completed a snowmobile safety course in Wisconsin an increase from 33% the previous season.

Certification in snowmobile safety is encouraged for operators of all ages.

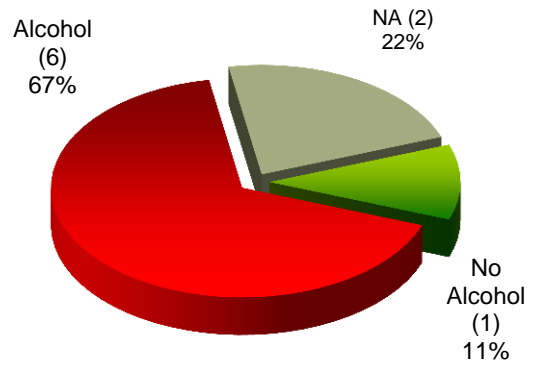
**PRESENCE OF HELMET DURING ACCIDENT**



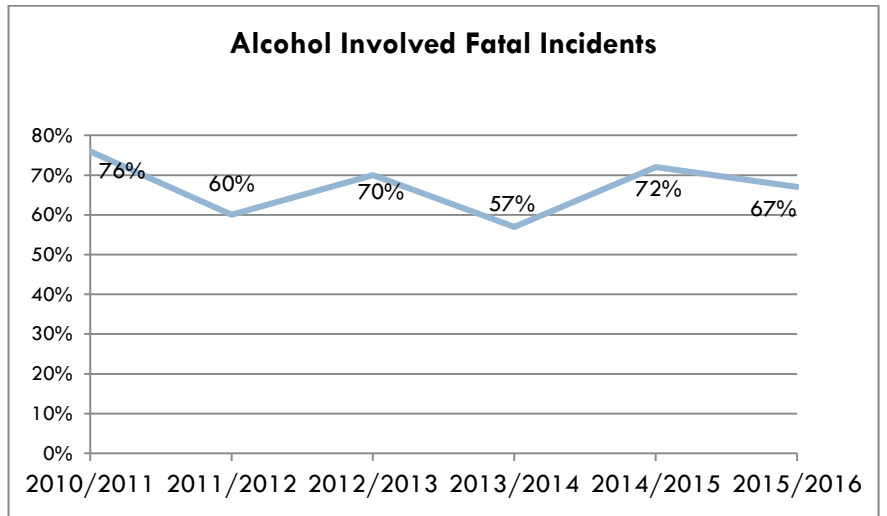
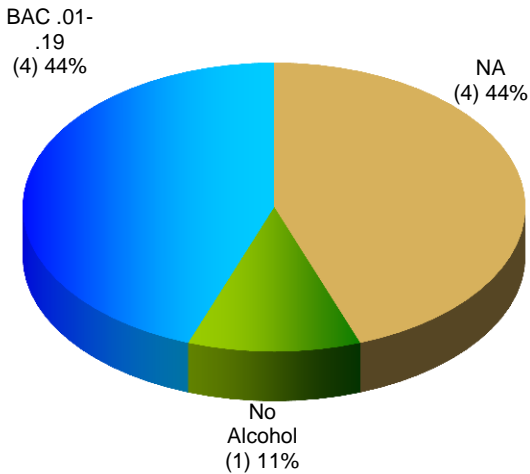
Alcohol was involved in 6 of the nine fatal incidents. "Alcohol Involved" means alcohol was detected in victim's system or witness verified victim consumed alcohol. (Blood test results were unknown for two incidents.)

Twenty-Two operators were arrested for operating a snowmobile with a BAC at or above .08%.

**ALCOHOL INVOLVEMENT**



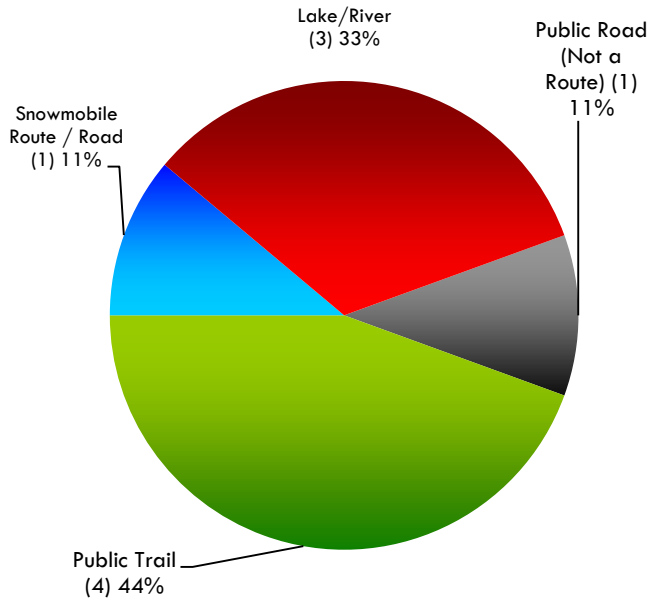
**Amount of Alcohol (BAC) Detected in the Victim at the Time of the Accident**



Note: Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is in grams/milliliter (g/ml).



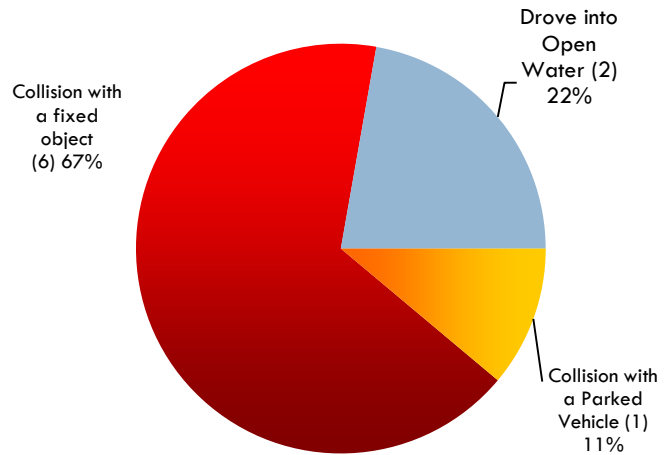
**Location of Accident**



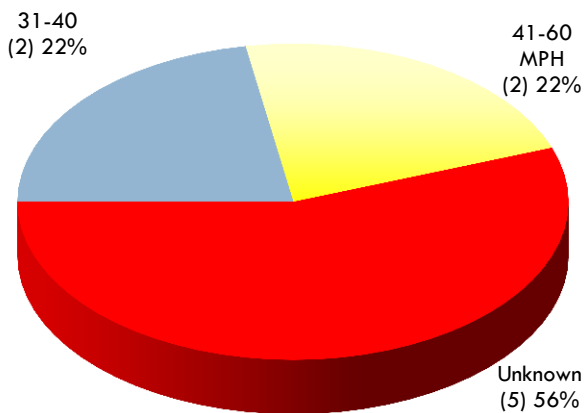
Note: A Route is a public road opened to legal snowmobile travel by the local municipality.

There were 6 fatal crashes that involved colliding with a fixed object. A “Fixed Object” could be a tree, cabin, bridge, cables or a shoreline.

**Type of Accident**

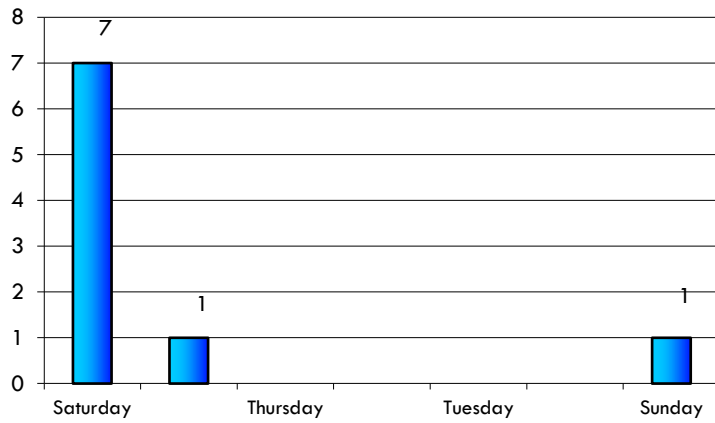


**Estimated Speed at Time of Accident**

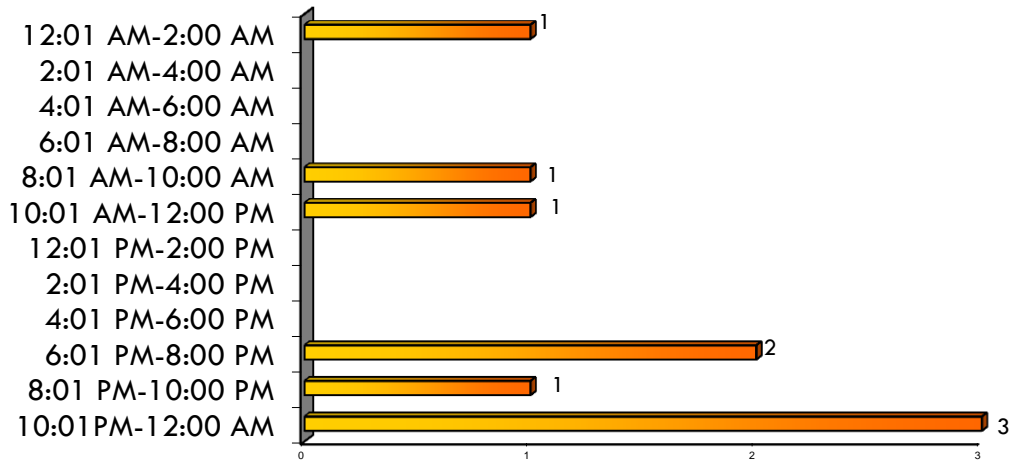


**FATALITIES BY DAY OF WEEK**

Saturday and Sunday continue to be the days of the week with the highest number of fatal occurrences with a total of 8 for both days.



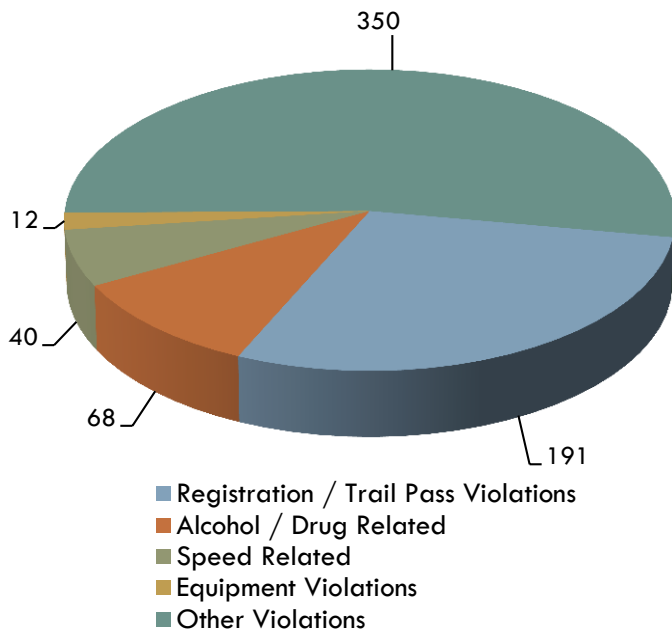
**TIME OF FATAL OCCURRENCE**



## Top Ten Snowmobile Violations

#1	Fail to comply with regulatory signs	119
#2	Operate snowmobile without valid registration	111
#3	Operate snowmobile without valid safety certificate or without carry proof of completion	95
#4	Operate snowmobile on public or private property of another without consent	51
#5	Operate a snowmobile on a snowmobile trail without a trail use sticker	47
#6	Operate snowmobile illegally on or in the vicinity of highways	44
#7	Operate snowmobile while under the influence of an intoxicant or controlled substance	37
#8	Place, possess or transport an uncased or loaded firearm in or on a vehicle	29
#9	Operate snowmobile with alcohol concentration at or above .08%	22
#10	Operate at unreasonable, improper speed or in careless manner	20

## Citations Issued for Snowmobile Violations for the 2015-2016

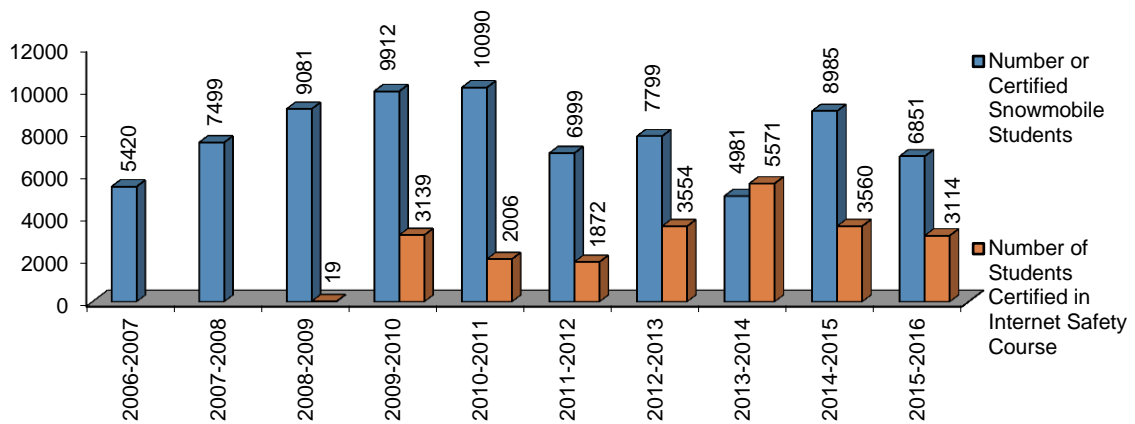


State Conservation Wardens and county recreational patrol deputies receive snowmobile funding to enforce state snowmobile laws.

The total number of citations for the 2015-2016 season was 661.

## Safety Education

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS CERTIFIED

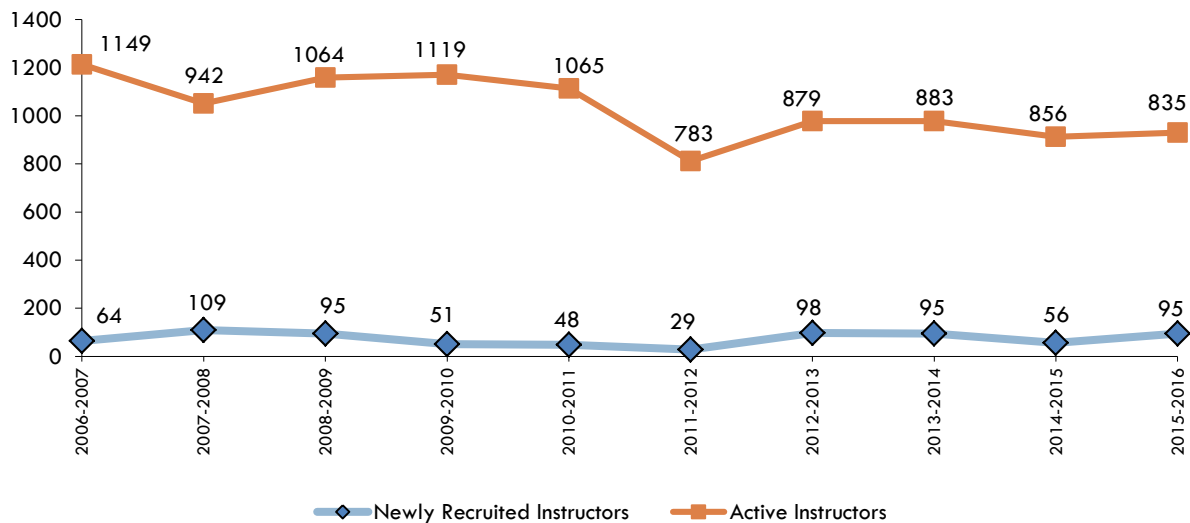


Snowmobile riding is a growing sport in Wisconsin. Along with the privilege of enjoying the sport comes the responsibility of making sure you are operating snowmobiles safely and responsibly.

Snowmobile operators at least 12 years of age who were born on or after January 1, 1985 must complete a snowmobile safety certification course in order to operate on public snowmobile trails and areas in Wisconsin. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all snowmobile operators complete a safety course.

For the 2015/2016 Season, 3,114 of the 6,851 total students were certified through an Internet Safety Course. Students must be 16 years of age or older in order to become certified by these online classes. The trend of the number of people being certified by the internet safety course vs. a traditional class room course is increasing.

### NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS CERTIFIED AND ACTIVE



**Wisconsin Snowmobile Fatality Summary – 2015/2016**

<b>Date / Time County / Town City Location</b>	<b>No.# of Vehicles Involved / Cause / Incident Factors</b>	<b>Vehicle CC / Estimated Speed Helmet</b>	<b>Age/Gender/Residency Safety Certified / Experience</b>	<b>Alcohol Involved / BAC</b>
#1 - 1/16/16; 8:30AM; Vilas ; Land O Lakes; Route	One / Struck a Fixed Object / Speed	1000CC/Unk./ Yes	75 / M / WI / No / Over 100 Hours	Unknown / Unknown
The victim / snowmobile left the road / route at a curve and struck several trees.				
#2 - 1/16/16; 6:45PM; Oneida; Lake Tomahawk; Trail	One / Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol	800CC/35MPH/Yes	45 / M / IL / No / Over 100 Hours	Yes / .196
The victim / snowmobile left the trail at a curve and struck a tree.				
#3 - 1/23/16; 10:27PM; LaCrosse; Holland Township; Trail	One / Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol; Speed	800CC/Unk./Yes	27 / F / WI / NA / NA	Yes / .094
The operator was on a closed trail when he came upon a low hanging tree over the trail. The tree grazed the operator but struck the passenger in the helmet. Victim passed from her injuries on 2/6/16.				
#4 - 1/30/16; 6:57PM; Price; Worcester; Lake	One / Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol; Speed	587CC/55MPH/Yes	55 / F / WI / No / Over 100 Hours	Yes / .160
The victim hit a large pocket of standing water/slush on the ice, appears to have accelerated rapidly towards shore and struck the shore and trees.				
#5 - 2/6/16; 10:41PM; Vilas; Phelps; Road (Not a Route)	One / Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol; Speed	600CC/Unk./ Yes	49 / M / WI / No / Over 100 Hours	Yes / Unknown
The victim failed to negotiate a curve and struck a plowed embankment causing the snowmobile to go airborne.				
#6 - 2/13/16; 1:30AM; Sawyer; Bass Lake; Trail	One / Struck a Fixed Object / Alcohol; Speed	500CC/Unk./Yes	48 / F / IA / No / Over 100 Hours	Yes / .183
The victim failed to negotiate a curve in the trail, left the trail and struck a pile of logs.				

**WISCONSIN SNOWMOBILE SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

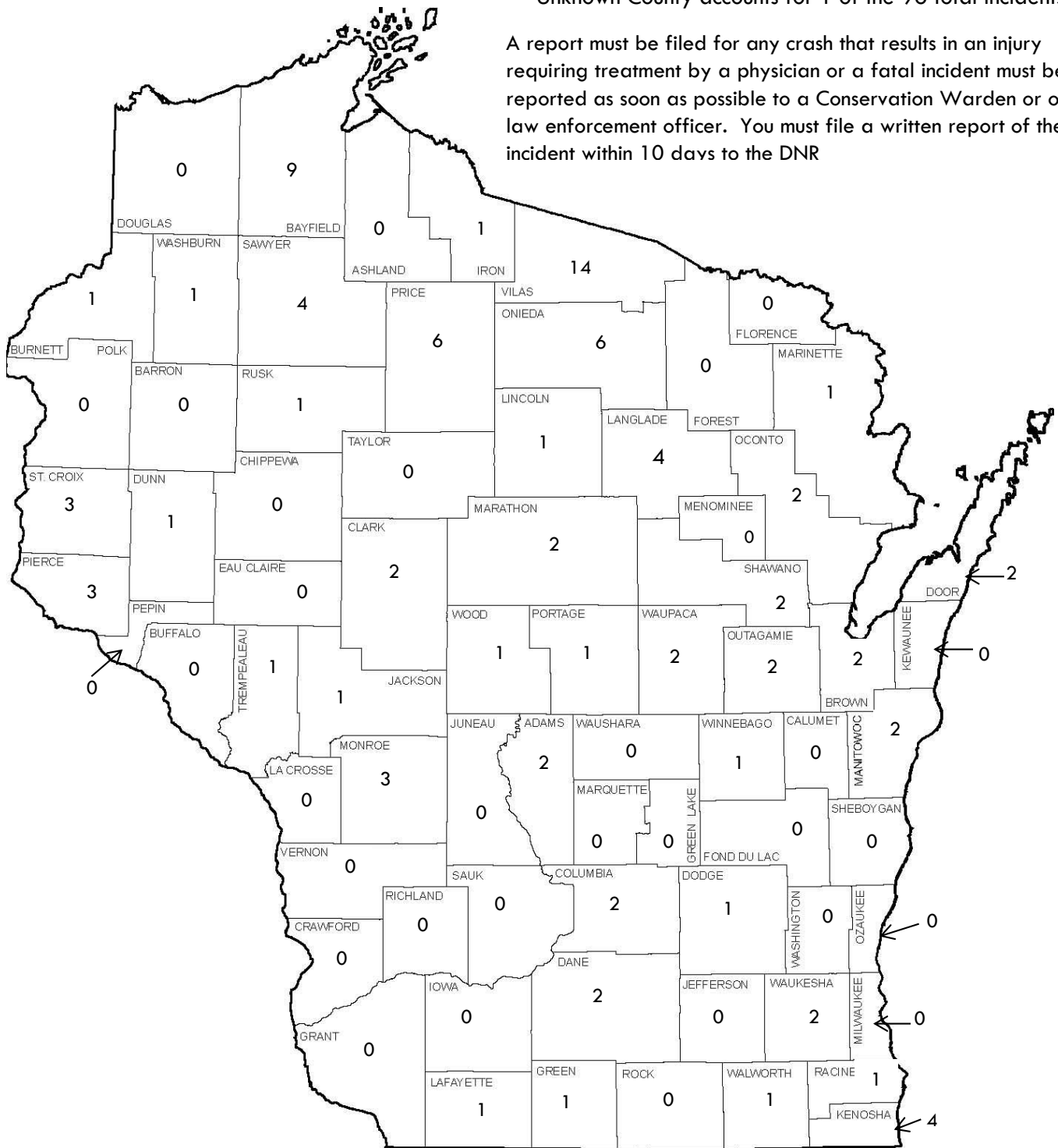
#7 - 2/14/16; 9:02PM; Walworth; Linn; Lake	Two / Drove into Open Water / Inexperience; Open Water	Unk./Unk./Yes	53 / M / IL / No / Unknown	Unknown / Unknown
The victim was operating his snowmobile across a lake when he drove into open water.				
#8 - 2/20/16; 11:25AM; Douglas; Hawthorne; Trail	One / Struck a Fixed Object / Speed	600CC/35MPH/Yes	17 / M / WI; Yes / 0-100 Hours	No / .000
The victim left the trail and struck a tree.				
#9 - 2/26/16; 10:45PM; Bayfield; Namakagon; Lake	One / Struck a Parked Vehicle / Alcohol; Speed	800CC/54MPH/Yes	54 / M / MN / No / Over 100 Hours	Yes / .126
Victim was operating across a lake and collided with a vehicle parked on the ice.				



## 2015-2016 TOTAL SNOWMOBILE INJURY INCIDENTS REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT BY COUNTY

Unknown County accounts for 1 of the 96 total incidents.

A report must be filed for any crash that results in an injury requiring treatment by a physician or a fatal incident must be reported as soon as possible to a Conservation Warden or other law enforcement officer. You must file a written report of the incident within 10 days to the DNR



**WISCONSIN SNOWMOBILE SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Snowmobile Safety Patrol, May 01, 2015 – April 30, 2016									
Municipality	Prorated Payment On \$396,000.00 (90.27%)	Reported Patrol Hours	Citations Issued	Cost / Patrol Hour	Cost / Citation	Hours / Citation	Exempt Hours	Admin Hours	Total Reported Hours
Adams County SO	15672.45	309.00	40.50	56.19	428.69	7.63	7.00	77.00	393.00
Ashland County SO	5981.66	139.00	8.00	47.67	828.31	17.38	0.00	17.00	156.00
Barron County SO	6932.20	80.00	4.00	95.99	1919.86	20.00	3.00	18.00	101.00
Bayfield County SO	18184.60	255.75	34.00	78.77	592.49	7.52	45.00	58.50	359.25
Brown County SO	7675.95	76.75	24.00	110.79	354.31	3.20	26.00	12.50	115.25
Burnett County SO	6069.23	109.50	10.00	61.40	672.35	10.95	6.50	30.00	146.00
Calumet County SO	5063.89	40.50	3.50	138.51	1602.78	11.57	0.00	0.00	40.50
Chippewa County SO	6526.02	175.75	21.00	41.13	344.26	8.37	6.00	41.75	223.50
Dane County SO	19379.68	77.00	8.00	278.81	2683.58	9.63	93.00	62.00	232.00
Dodge County SO	8359.56	67.00	11.00	138.22	841.88	6.09	54.50	23.50	145.00
Door County SO	5818.21	51.50	9.00	125.15	716.15	5.72	4.00	10.25	65.75
Douglas County SO	20901.28	312.50	31.00	74.09	746.91	10.08	67.50	59.50	439.50
Florence County SO	3837.52	109.00	11.50	39.00	369.67	9.48	0.00	4.00	113.00
Forest County SO	17820.22	346.50	13.50	56.97	1462.30	25.67	21.00	45.00	412.50
Iron County SO	18201.18	256.50	19.00	78.61	1061.22	13.50	29.00	86.00	371.50
Jackson County SO	3576.98	45.00	6.00	88.06	660.43	7.50	6.00	13.00	64.00
Langlade County SO	7454.94	114.50	14.50	72.13	569.55	7.90	0.00	13.50	128.00
Lincoln County SO	8624.32	169.00	25.50	56.53	374.66	6.63	6.50	19.50	195.00
Manitowoc County SO	6942.44	67.25	15.00	114.36	512.72	4.48	1.00	3.00	71.25
Marinette County SO	11611.93	161.20	27.00	79.80	476.43	5.97	2.00	51.50	214.80
Oconto County SO	16430.43	225.00	15.00	80.90	1213.43	15.00	0.00	64.00	289.00
Oneida County SO	32422.37	214.00	21.00	167.84	1710.35	10.19	124.00	78.50	416.50
Outagamie County SO	5838.39	44.00	9.00	146.99	718.64	4.89	22.00	7.10	73.10
Pierce County SO	28754.99	530.00	68.00	60.10	468.45	7.79	20.00	50.00	600.00
Polk County SO	4689.13	41.00	8.00	126.70	649.32	5.13	40.50	8.00	89.50
Portage County SO	6517.87	60.50	13.50	119.35	534.85	4.48	5.00	13.50	79.00
Rock County SO	9142.17	50.00	13.00	202.55	779.05	3.85	70.00	25.50	145.50
Rusk County SO	3193.05	49.00	4.00	72.19	884.31	12.25	3.00	7.00	59.00
Sawyer County SO	14931.56	309.00	34.00	53.53	486.50	9.09	2.00	72.00	383.00
Shawano County SO	4365.53	42.00	23.00	115.15	210.27	1.83	0.00	11.00	53.00
St. Croix County SO	7423.05	42.25	8.00	194.63	1027.90	5.28	77.00	9.00	128.25
Taylor County SO	2650.49	47.00	4.50	62.47	652.49	10.44	9.00	9.50	65.50
Vilas County SO	13084.07	147.60	25.50	98.20	568.41	5.79	79.40	19.00	246.00
Washburn County SO	1707.50	41.50	3.50	45.58	540.45	11.86	8.00	0.50	50.00
Washington County SO	6595.33	40.00	3.00	182.66	2435.42	13.33	0.00	17.00	57.00
Waupaca County SO	16225.57	170.00	30.00	105.73	599.15	5.67			310.50
Waushara County SO	484.76	79.16	20.50	6.78	26.20	3.86	14.00	15.00	108.16
Winnebago County SO	8049.63	75.50	13.00	118.11	685.95	5.81	2.00	11.50	89.00
Wood County SO	8859.85	63.50	9.00	154.56	1090.54	7.06	53.00	2.00	118.50



