

Beautiful Eastern Association of Snowmobile Trails



Safe Operating Procedures

SOP – 15: GROOMER

It is important that all employees and volunteers that are responsible for grooming trails are informed and trained about the key health and safety points and controls to remember when driving a groomer.

The following hazards may occur during use of the groomer:

- Collisions, crushing, roll-overs
- Fire/Explosion
- Hearing damage
- Hypothermia
- Musculoskeletal injuries

Safe Operating Procedure

- The proper personal protective equipment to be available is set out by the manufacturer and in the Occupational Health & Safety Legislation
 - Felt packed, steel toed, rubber soled boots
 - Work gloves Warm mitts
 - Warm hat
 - Close-fitting, warm clothing
- Complete Daily Groomer Checklist at the beginning of each shift
- Follow prescribed Groomer warm-up procedures appropriate for the equipment being used, per manufacturer instruction
- If installed, Seat belt must be worn at all times
- Passengers must only ride in the cab
- Lights must be on during vehicle operation
- If grooming activity is taking place during hours of operation all audible siren and visual beacons will be used
- No operator will leave groomer unattended with the implements raised
- Reversing should be kept to a minimum in high traffic areas
- When backing up groomer in the operation's building yard area, spotters should be used, when available
- Correctly secure doors and windows during operation

- Maintain 3 points of contact when entering/exiting the machine
- Use caution walking along the length of the track. Track is slippery
- Moving guests in a groomer is only permitted when authorized by Leadership □
Establish eye contact with personnel behind the groomer before backing up □ When groomer is stopped, ensure that:
 - All implements are lowered to the ground
 - It is in Neutral gear
 - Parking brake is applied

If you must exit the groomer for any reason, ensure that:

- All implements are lowered to the ground
 - It is in Neutral gear
 - Parking brake is applied
- Avoid short radius turns with implements down
 - While hauling grooming equipment, remember to turn slowly
 - Do not operate vehicle and equipment beyond its rated capacity
 - Before unclogging the implements ALWAYS disconnect the power source and wait for the blades to stop
 - NEVER use a broom handle or stick to unclog the tiller while the groomer is running
 - Signs must be posted on any hill the groomer is winching on
 - Do not stand behind the machine during any winching operations
 - Complete Shift Grooming Log at the end of each shift
 - Fueling must be done in a well-ventilated area and not while the groomer is running at the end of each shift or as required
 - Repairs to the groomer must be performed by qualified personnel, using O.E.M. parts or equivalent
 - Ensure regular operator maintenance tasks are performed at required intervals
 - Immediately report any unusual or hazardous situations to your supervisor

For more information, please refer to Regulation 851 Section 24 - 28: Machine Guarding and Section 54, 57, 58, 61: Material Handling.