

**VILAS COUNTY
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SAFETY
COMMITTEE**
330 Court Street, Courthouse
Eagle River, WI 54521



Tel: 715-479-5160
Fax: 715-479-5573

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Dale Mayo, 715-479-5160

**VILAS COUNTY IMPLEMENTS
TRAIL INTERSECTION NUMBERING SYSTEM**

What does this mean to you? This little number, located at a snowmobile intersection can help save a life – yours, your friend's, your family member. In the event of an emergency on the trail, a snowmobiler can locate the nearest intersection number, use their cell phone, call 911 and give the intersection number to the 911 emergency center. The 911 emergency center, in turn, upon receiving the emergency call, enters the number into a computer and a map is displayed that identifies that specific location and the best route for Emergency Responders to access the emergency. This Trail Intersection Numbering System (TINS) should help to reduce response time for Emergency Services by locating trail access sites closer to the emergency.

NOT JUST A RANDOM NUMBER

In order to develop a comprehensive, easy numbering system, the Vilas County Snowmobile Trail System map, currently used by all the Clubs, was used as the starting point. This map shows the Vilas County Snowmobile Trail system on one side (the County side) with individual Club trails on the other side (the Club side).

The County side of the map was divided into 9 separate, numbered sections while the club side is an enlargement of one of the sections. The number begins with the section number followed by 2 more digits which defines the intersection. Example: the number 319 identifies the location to be in section 3 of the map at intersection 19. The 3-digit number is placed at trail intersections. The snowmobiler on the trail would locate the brown, 6" x 6", reflective, 3-digit number sign at the nearest trail intersection and, using his or her cell phone, call that intersection number in to the 911 emergency center and report the emergency condition. These signs are installed and maintained by the Club maintaining that trail section.

The location of each of these 3-digit number signs has been integrated into the Vilas County Sheriff's Office 911 emergency services system. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with the assistance of Vilas County, has also integrated the system into their Mobile Computer Program which allows them to have information on the emergency.

This system has been designed and implemented through the cooperation of the Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance and the Vilas County Snowmobile Safety Committee.

According to Renn Karl, President of the Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance, the Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance (a cadre of 11 clubs from all regions of Vilas County) has always supported and promoted snowmobile safety. "In order to promote snowmobiling as a family sport the "Alliance" has often taken positions unpopular among some snowmobilers such as a nighttime speed limit and zero alcohol tolerance." However, continued Karl, "Supporting law enforcement and trail safety didn't seem to be enough of a proactive position. So during the 2007-2008 snowmobile season, the "Alliance," with the help of Dale Mayo, Vilas County Snowmobile Trail Coordinator, created the Vilas County Snowmobile Safety Committee."

This Committee consists of two County Board Supervisors, the County Snowmobile Trail Coordinator, the President of the Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance, four members of the Snowmobile Alliance from each quadrant of the County, a representative of the DNR law enforcement and representatives of the Sheriff's Department and Health Department. "Implementation of the Vilas County Trail Intersection Numbering System is just one of the many positive measures set forth by this committee," stated Karl.

"The Vilas County Snowmobile Safety Committee embraced the implementation of the Trail Intersection Numbering System," stated Sig Hjemvick, Chair of the Committee. "With the cooperation of the Snowmobile Alliance, the Vilas County Sheriff's Department and the Vilas County Mapping Department, this project was brought to fruition."

The Trail Intersection Numbering System (TINS) has been implemented to promote safety and help to improve response time for first responders. Linked to the 911 system, these numbers can be used year-round to help injured or lost trail users. Questions regarding TINS can be directed to Dale Mayo, Vilas County Snowmobile Program Coordinator at 715-479-5160.

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Photos attached:

