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No room for impaired operations on trails

East Lansing, Mich., February 2019 — The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) and the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) encourage snowmobile enthusiasts to not ride impaired and to come home safe to their families.

“Alcohol or drug use is never safe when operating a snowmobile,” said Greg Hiles, president of ASCA. “There are too many variables to consider when riding and intoxicants can slow down reaction time dramatically.”

Alcohol and drugs negatively affect the body by affecting the driver’s vision, equilibrium or balance and coordination, and reaction time, according to ASCA.

“Drunk driving is drunk driving, no matter what you are driving” is the stance of ASCA and the association’s recommendation is to have fun on a run, but not to drink or use drugs until the ride is done.

“There is no room on any snowmobile trail for alcohol or drugs,” Hiles said.

In addition to a dedicated area focusing on alcohol awareness, the Safe Riders! Snowmobile Safety Awareness website www.snowmobileinfo.org provides essential and detailed materials pertaining to snowmobile safety in an easy-to-understand format.

Educational topics range from preparing to ride, knowing important snowmobile parts, dangers to avoid and emergency preparedness, along with safe riding tips and recommendations.

“Knowing about alcohol and drug impairment is crucial to snowmobiling safety,” said Hiles. He encourages individuals, snowmobile clubs and snowmobile riding educators to use the Safe Riders! Snowmobile Safety Awareness site as an educational resource including PSAs and informative posters.

For more snowmobile safety information and best practices, visit www.snowmobileinfo.org. For more information on snowmobile associations and clubs, visit www.snowmobilers.org.

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