CHAPTER 75

ATVS, UTVS, AND SNOWMOBILES

75.01 Purpose
75.02 Definitions
75.03 General Regulations
75.04 Operation of Snowmobiles
75.05 Operation of ATVs and UTVs
75.06 Negligence
75.07 Accident Reports

75.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the operation of all-terrain vehicles, off-road utility vehicles, and snowmobiles within the City.

75.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

1. "All-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" means a motorized vehicle, with not less than three and not more than six non-highway tires, that is limited in engine displacement to less than 1,000 cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to less than 1,200 pounds and that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.1)

2. "Off-road motorcycle" means a two-wheeled motor vehicle that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control and that is intended by the manufacturer for use on natural terrain. "Off-road motorcycle" includes a motorcycle that was originally issued a certificate of title and registered for highway use under Chapter 321 of the *Code of Iowa*, but which contains design features that enable operation over natural terrain. An operator of an off-road motorcycle is also subject to the provisions of this chapter governing the operation of all-terrain vehicles.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.1)

3. "Off-road utility vehicle" or "UTV" means a motorized vehicle, with not less than four and not more than eight non-highway tires or rubberized tracks, that has a seat that is of bucket or bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel or control levers for control. "Off-road utility vehicle" or "UTV" includes the following vehicles:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.1)

A. "Off-road utility vehicle – Type 1" includes vehicles with a total dry weight of 1,200 pounds or less and a width of 50 inches or less.

B. "Off-road utility vehicle – Type 2" includes vehicles, other than Type 1 vehicles, with a total dry weight of 2,000 pounds or less and a width of 65 inches or less.

C. "Off-road utility vehicle – Type 3" includes vehicles with a total dry weight of more than 2,000 pounds or a width of more than 65 inches, or both.

An operator of an UTV is also subject to the provisions of this chapter governing the operation of ATVs.

4. "Snowmobile" means a motorized vehicle that weighs less than 1,000 pounds, that uses sled-type runners or skis, endless belt-type tread with a width of 48 inches or less, or any combination of runners, skis, or tread, and is designed for travel on snow or

ice. "Snowmobile" does not include an all-terrain vehicle that has been altered or equipped with runners, skis, belt-type tracks, or treads.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.1)

75.03 GENERAL REGULATIONS. No person shall operate an ATV, off-road motorcycle, or off-road utility vehicle within the City in violation of Chapter 321I of the *Code of Iowa* or a snowmobile within the City in violation of the provisions of Chapter 321G of the *Code of Iowa* or in violation of rules established by the Natural Resource Commission of the Department of Natural Resources governing their registration, equipment and manner of operation.

(Code of Iowa, Ch. 321G and Ch. 321I)

75.04 OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILES. The operators of snowmobiles shall comply with the following restrictions as to where snowmobiles may be operated within the City:

1. Streets. Snowmobiles shall be operated only upon streets that have not been plowed during the snow season and on such other streets as may be designated by resolution of the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4a])

2. Exceptions. Snowmobiles may be operated on prohibited streets only under the following circumstances:

A. Emergencies. Snowmobiles may be operated on any street in an emergency during the period of time when and at locations where snow upon the roadway renders travel by conventional motor vehicles impractical.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4c])

B. Direct Crossing. Snowmobiles may make a direct crossing of a prohibited street provided all of the following occur:

(1) The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the street and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;

(2) The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the street;

(3) The driver yields the right-of-way to all on-coming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard; and

(4) In crossing a divided street, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such street with another street.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[2])

3. Railroad Right-of-Way. Snowmobiles shall not be operated on an operating railroad right-of-way. A snowmobile may be driven directly across a railroad right-of-way only at an established crossing and notwithstanding any other provisions of law may, if necessary, use the improved portion of the established crossing after yielding to all oncoming traffic.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.13[1h])

4. Trails. Snowmobiles shall not be operated on all-terrain vehicle trails except where so designated.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4f])

5. Parks and Other City Land. Snowmobiles shall not be operated in any park, playground, or upon any other City-owned property without the express permission of

the City. A snowmobile shall not be operated on any City land without a snow cover of at least one-tenth of one inch.

6. Sidewalk or Parking. Snowmobiles shall not be operated upon the public sidewalk or that portion of the street located between the curb line and the sidewalk or property line commonly referred to as the "parking" except for purposes of crossing the same to a public street upon which operation is authorized by this chapter.

75.05 OPERATION OF ATVS AND UTVS. The operators of ATVs and UTVs shall comply with the following restrictions as to where ATVs and UTVs may be operated within the City:

1. Streets. ATVs and UTVs may be operated on roadways or highways in accordance with Section 321.234A of the *Code of Iowa.* A City may regulate the operation of registered ATVs and UTVs and may designate streets under the jurisdiction of the City within its corporate limits, and two-lane primary and secondary road extensions in the City, which may be used for the operation of such vehicles. In designating such streets, the City may authorize ATVs and UTVs to stop at service stations or convenience stores along a designated street.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.10[1 and 3])

2. Trails. ATVs and UTVs shall not be operated on snowmobile trails except where designated.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.10[4])

3. Railroad Right-of-Way. ATVs and UTVs shall not be operated on an operating railroad right-of-way. An ATV or UTV may be driven directly across a railroad right-of-way only at an established crossing and notwithstanding any other provisions of law may, if necessary, use the improved portion of the established crossing after yielding to all oncoming traffic.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.14[1h])

4. Parks and Other City Land. ATVs and UTVs shall not be operated in any park, playground, or upon any other City-owned property without the express permission of the City.

5. Sidewalk or Parking. ATVs and UTVs shall not be operated upon the public sidewalk or that portion of the street located between the curb line and the sidewalk or property line commonly referred to as the "parking."

6. Direct Crossing. An ATV or UTV may make a direct crossing of a highway that is not part of the interstate road system provided all of the following occur:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321I.10[5])

A. The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.

B. The ATV or UTV is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway.

C. The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard.

D. In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway.

E. The crossing is made from a street, roadway, or highway on which the ATV or UTV is authorized to operate to a street, roadway, or highway on which such vehicle is authorized to operate.

75.06 NEGLIGENCE. The owner and operator of an ATV, UTV, or snowmobile are liable for any injury or damage occasioned by the negligent operation of the ATV, UTV, or snowmobile. The owner of an ATV, UTV, or snowmobile shall be liable for any such injury or damage only if the owner was the operator of the ATV, UTV, or snowmobile at the time the injury or damage occurred or if the operator had the owner's consent to operate the ATV, UTV, or snowmobile at the time the injury or damage occurred.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.18 and 321I.19)

75.07 ACCIDENT REPORTS. Whenever an ATV, UTV, or snowmobile is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to anyone or property damage amounting to $1,500.00 or more, either the operator or someone acting for the operator shall immediately notify a law enforcement officer and shall file an accident report, in accordance with State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.10 and 321I.11)

[The next page is 293]