



**IOWA RECREATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
SNOW GROOMER OPERATOR PROGRAM**

State of Iowa
Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Bureau
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines IA 50319-0034

This is a checklist for certification as a Snow Groomer Operator

Print or Type

Recertification

NAME: _____ Drivers License #: _____
Last, First Middle

TRAINER NAME: _____ DATE: _____
NAME OF CLUB: _____ NAME OF ELECTED OFFICER: _____

Every Groomer Operator Should Be Able To

1. Know the Grooming Equipment they are Operating and Identify its Key Controls, Components, and Features.

- Know the capabilities, characteristics, and limitations of their grooming tractor and front blade.
- Identify key controls and components of their grooming tractor and front blade (steering, throttle, brakes, lights, mirrors, hydraulics, tracks, engine, hitch, etc).
- Know the capabilities, characteristics, and limitations of their grooming implement(s) (drag, tiller, or compactor bar as applicable).
- Identify key features of their grooming implements (frame, blades, wheels, tongue, hydraulics, skags, pan, tines, drum, lights, etc as applicable).

2. Start, Operate, and Control the Groomer.

- Properly conduct a pre- and post-operation visual inspection.
- Operate and understand all in-cab controls, instruments, and gauges.
- Start, stop, and park the vehicle.
- Back up the vehicle and hook up implements.
- Operate the vehicle on the right side of the trail.
- Demonstrate proper technique to get the vehicle unstuck.
- Demonstrate front blade functions and operation.
- Demonstrate the function and operation of rear implements.

3. Demonstrate Good Operator Safety Procedures.

- Be prepared by carrying tools, safety equipment, and proper clothing.
- Ensure grooming equipment is always visible with lights and reflective material.
- Always wear seat belts and operate cautiously when using front blade.
- File trip plan and stay in communication with dispatch or manager.
- Safely stop and park grooming equipment when on trail.
- Safely secure grooming equipment that breaks down on trail.
- Avoid ice crossings.
- Check equipment prior to departure.
- Carry extra trail signs and replace when missing.

4. Demonstrate Proper Equipment Operation Techniques and Procedures.

- Understand general grooming operating guidelines, including minimum snow depth, best time to groom, the optimal temperature range for grooming, and grooming procedures for when there is low visibility.
- Understand grooming basics like: constantly watching the trail behind the groomer; don't leave holes, debris, or back-up piles on the trail; and know your trail so you can anticipate grooming needs and adjustments.
- Understand proper grooming speed and problems caused by grooming too fast.
- Understand the proper technique for grooming curves, hills, and bridges.
- Understand the difference between building and maintaining a trail base.
- Understand what to do when meeting snowmobiles on the trail.
- Understand proper grooming width and direction of travel.
- Understand proper techniques for grooming with a drag.
- Understand proper techniques for grooming with a tiller.
- Understand proper techniques for use of a front blade.
- Understand proper techniques and tops for operating tracked vehicles.
- Know the Top 10 Operator Abuses (handout provided to student operator).

5. Perform Proper Equipment Inspection and Maintenance.

- Understand the importance of preventative maintenance.
- Practice the Four Elements of Preventative Maintenance (handout provided to student operator).
- Refuel and lubricate the equipment.
- Perform pre-shift inspection and maintenance.
- Periodically stop to perform walk-around inspection during grooming shift.
- Perform post-shift inspection and maintenance.
- Notify grooming manager of equipment maintenance needs.
- Assist with pre-season, off-season, and regularly scheduled maintenance as requested.

6. Perform Proper Record Keeping.

- Complete Daily Groomer Operator's Logs and Pre-and Post-Operation Checklists.
- Keep accurate records of equipment use and maintenance.
- Submit Equipment Maintenance Requests and Corrective Action forms.

7. Know the Local Area and Local Procedures.

- Know local trail routes and have maps available for snowmobilers.
- Know local trail signing guidelines.
- Know local laws and any special closures for sensitive areas.
- Know local emergency procedures and contact information.

When completed and signed, please mail to:

Snow Groomer Operator Program
Iowa DNR
502 E 9th St
Des Moines IA 50319-0034