Sleddin' the Right Track Facilitation Guide
for
Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers
30-Minute Version Presentation/Activity

Background: This 30-minute presentation/activity includes a short discussion and one interactive exercise. The video presentation is divided into two segments.

Audience: New and experienced snow mobile drivers.

Materials:
- DVD player or computer and projector, projection screen and Operation Lifesaver DVD containing the Sleddin’ the Right Track video presentation.
- Copy of the Sleddin’ the Right Track Facilitation Guide for Authorized Volunteers
- Easel, chart pad and markers
- Several blank chart pages and markers for the interactive activity
- Prepared chart page
- Optional: Dishes of Lifesavers®, hard candies, M&M's, pretzels or other treats for placement on each table in the meeting room.
- Optional: Operation Lifesaver key chains, pens, brochures, lapel pins, posters, etc.

Preparation

Prior to delivering this 30-minute activity:
- Prepare the required chart page described below.
- (Optional) Place dishes of Lifesavers, M&M's, pretzels, or other "treats" on each table in the meeting room.
- (Optional) Place Operation Lifesaver logo-identified materials on tables and place an appropriate OL poster or other available materials in the room.

Required Chart Pages

Prepare the following chart pages prior to delivering the Sleddin’ the Right Track 30-minute workshop.

Chart #1: Welcome

WELCOME TO
Sleddin’ the Right Track
Sponsored by
Operation Lifesaver
Delivery Directions

- Display prepared Chart #1 - Welcome
  - **Welcome** participants, introduce yourself and introduce others in the room
  - **Cover** any housekeeping or logistics information.

**SAY:**
- *My name is ___________ and I'm here to spend a few minutes talking about Operation Lifesaver and snow mobile safety at railroad crossings and around railroad tracks.*
- *I've been riding snow mobiles for . . . and particularly enjoy. . .*
- *I'm here to talk about Operation Lifesaver and snow mobile safety because. . .*

**ASK:**
- *Has anyone here today ever ridden his or her snow mobile off designated trails? Have you ever thought about riding near or between railroad tracks?*
- *What are some potential risks of riding along railroad tracks?*

**ACTION:** Write participant suggestions about potential risks on a blank chart page.

**ASK:** *What are some misconceptions that you think snow mobile drivers -- especially less experienced ones - might have about the safety of riding on or near railroad tracks?*

**ACTION:** Write a few of the misconceptions identified by participants on a blank chart page.

**ASK:** *Is anyone here aware of any legal consequences of riding on what is essentially private railroad property?*

**ACTION:** Make a transition to the first video segment.

**SAY:** *As many of you have indicated, many snow mobile drivers have some misconceptions about riding around railroad tracks and these misconceptions can have some disastrous consequences. Also, as we discussed, there are potential legal consequences for riders who trespass on railroad property. These ideas are discussed in more detail in our first video segment.*

**ACTION:** Play the first segment of the video. **Stop** the presentation when the counter reaches 4:42.

**ASK:**
- *Did anyone here gain any new insights or new information from the portion of the video we just viewed?*
- *Were you surprised by any of the information presented on the video? Do you think this information would come as a surprise to other snow mobile drivers? If so, what items of information would be most surprising to them?*
ACTION:

- Revisit the chart page containing the list of misconceptions participants generated before they viewed the video segment and compare it to the information presented on the video.

SAY: As we discussed potential misconceptions, we touched on some of the important ideas expressed on the video. Moving forward, it is important for all snow mobile drivers to recognize that:
  - The approximate weight of a train pulling boxcars is six million kilograms or thirteen million pounds. If a train encounters a snow mobile, it is similar to an automobile running over a soda can.
  - Riding on railroad tracks is trespassing and it's illegal.
  - Snow mobile drivers may not hear the sound of an approaching train over the noise of the snow mobile engine and because the sound is muted by the snow and by the driver's helmet.
  - It takes over 1 mile to stop a train traveling at 55 or 60 miles per hour.
  - Snow dust, fog, a helmet, a blind curve and other conditions can impair a rider's vision so that they do not see an approaching train.

ACTION: Introduce and position the next segment of the video.

SAY: The next segment of our video discusses some safety considerations associated with riding on straight and curved tracks, in rock cuts and on trestles, in poor weather and when crossing railroad tracks.

ACTION:

- Play the remaining portion of the video.
- After the video ends, compare the issues discussed in the final segment of the video to the misconceptions and issues posted on the chart page.
- Review and reinforce the following key messages discussed on the video:
  - Snow mobiles can get stuck on railroad tracks
  - It's not possible to jump over a railroad track -- you have to physically lift the sled off the tracks.
  - Trains can extend as much as three feet on either side of the tracks so there may be no margin for safety on railroad trestles or tracks that go through a rock cut.
  - Hitting a railroad switch can result in injury to the snow mobile driver and can potentially cause a derailment or other incident that affects everyone in the community.

- Introduce and position the activity.

ASK:

- Is anyone here a member of a snow mobile club or informal riding club? If so, would you please raise your hand?
- Would those of you who raised your hands please tell me and the group whether you think other members of your group are aware of the information presented by the video?
ACTION:
- Divide participants into groups of 3-6 or allow participants to work in table groups.
- Distribute a blank chart page and markers to each group.
- Give directions for the activity.

SAY:
- We’re now going to complete a short activity that focuses on clarifying some important misconceptions about safety around trains and railroad tracks.
- Think about the misconceptions we discussed earlier and about the video information that was new to you or that you may have found surprising.
- Now think about the likelihood that other members of your group -- and especially new riders -- will be aware of this important information.
- Work in your groups to identify one thing you can do to carry the important messages from the video to your snow mobile club, another club in your area or to a group of new snow mobile riders.
- Write down your strategy on the chart page. At the end of 5 minutes, I'll ask someone from each group to share their ideas.

ACTION:
- Allow groups to work for 5 minutes.
- Reassemble the large group, then call on a representative from each group to present his/her group's key safety messages and strategy for communicating them.
- Conclude the activity. Stress and reinforce the importance of the messages from the video and encouraging groups to put their strategies into action.
- Go around the room and ask each participant to share one thing they will do in the future to keep themselves and other riders safe around railroad tracks, railroad crossings and trains.
- Make any relevant personal remarks.
- Conclude the workshop.