



UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC PROGRAM

SNOWMOBILE and ATV HELMET POLICY

USAP POLICY #: AIL-
Effective Date: 1 April 2008

- I. PURPOSE:** To establish a uniform policy on the use of snowmobile and all terrain vehicle (ATV) helmets in the United States Antarctic Program (USAP).
- II. SCOPE:** This policy applies to all personnel affiliated with the United States Antarctic Program while deployed to (or visiting) Antarctica.
- III. BACKGROUND:** To date there has not been a policy addressing helmet use by USAP participants when operating snowmobiles and ATVs. Multiple studies have found that head injuries are the most common cause of snowmobile fatalities, and the use of helmets lessens the severity of head injuries. USAP snowmobile operations present a significant risk for head injury.
- IV. POLICY:** It is the Policy of the National Science Foundation (NSF) that all USAP participants operating, riding as a passenger, or riding on a sled towed by snowmobiles and ATVs, at any USAP location, are required to wear a helmet approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or SNELL for snowmobile or ATV use.
- V. IMPLEMENTATION:**
 - Communication**
Science participants requesting snowmobile or ATV use will receive this policy notice during the support information package (SIP) review and research support plan (RSP) processes through the Raytheon Polar Services Company (RPSC) Science Planning Group.

RPSC personnel will receive this policy notice at deployment orientation and work center briefings.

All other USAP participants will receive policy notice with deployment paperwork or at the Chalet Arrival Orientation

Training:

All USAP Participants operating snowmobiles and ATVs shall attend the RPSC-provided Snowmobile Training Course. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) riders shall attend the RPSC ATV course. The training courses shall follow the guidelines set forth by the Snowmobile Training Curriculum, document # SC-MSPLN-003. All training received shall be recorded on attendance rosters and tracked on the applicable station training tracker.

Helmet Issue:

McMurdo Station and any Field Camp personnel departing from station:

Helmets shall be issued with snowmobiles and ATVs prior to field deployment. For pool vehicles, helmets will be issued when personnel are issued their snowmobile or ATV.

South Pole Station – Participants that will operate snowmobiles at South Pole Station shall attend RPSC training while in transit through McMurdo Station.

Helmets shall be issued with the snowmobiles at South Pole Station.

Palmer Station – Participants that will operate snowmobiles and ATVs at Palmer Station will receive training, helmets and vehicles at the station.

Research Vessels – RPSC marine science personnel shall operate all snowmobiles or ATVs from the USAP research vessels.

VI. ENFORCEMENT:

USAP agency supervisors shall be responsible for compliance to this policy. Non-compliances shall be handled in the following progressive manner:

First Offense – Written warning and notification to immediate work center supervisor, Principal Investigator or agency immediate supervisor

Second Offense – Written notification to the RPSC and NSF Station Managers of loss of vehicle privileges for the season. Incident severity will be assessed on a case by case basis and may result additional disciplinary actions..

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Policy shall become effective April 1, 2008

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USAP Documents Referencing this Policy:

USAP Snowmobile and All Terrain Vehicle Training, SC-MSPLN-003