

Trail Intersection Numbering System

The Vilas County Snowmobile community has designed and is implementing a Trail Intersection Numbering System (TINS) County wide. The system will aid Emergency Services by reducing response times and locating trail access sites closer to an emergency. It will also assist the snowmobilers if they are lost. The System has been designed through the cooperation of the Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance, which consists of representatives of the 11 functioning Snowmobile Clubs in the County, the Vilas County Snowmobile Safety Committee, which consists of representatives of County Government, Sheriffs Dept, DNR and Snowmobile Clubs.

How it's Designed

A map of the County Snowmobile Trail system has been developed, which on one side (The County Side), divides the county into 9 separate Sections. Each of these area trails are maintained by one or more Snowmobile Club. On the other side of the map (The Club Side) is an enlargement of one of the Sections. It is on the Club Side, that a 3 digit number is placed at trail crossings. The number begins with the Section number followed by 2 more digits which defines the Intersection, for Example the number 319 identifies the location to be in Section 3 of the map at intersection 19. All of the intersections are being physically marked with 6in x 6in reflective signs, much like the mileage markers on our Interstate Highways, by the Clubs that maintain the Sections. The location of each of these numbers has been provided to the County. The County has integrated these numbers into their 911 Emergency Services Dispatch System operated by the Vilas County Sheriffs Department.

How it Works

A Snowmobiler has an emergency situation; he or she locates the nearest Intersection number and calls 911. They give the Intersection number to the Sheriffs Dept Dispatcher, the dispatcher enters the number into their computer system and a map appears with that specific location identified along with the best route for Emergency Responders to access. In addition to the notification of the County Emergency Responders the DNR, with the assistance of the County, has integrated the system into their Mobile Computer Program, so they also have exact information on the emergency.

The Trail Intersection Numbering System, has been implemented to promote safety and improve response time for Emergency Responders. Not only can it be used for snowmobilers, it can also be used by anyone using the trails and roads in Vilas County. It is manned by the Sheriffs Dept on a 24/7 basis all year long.