

## Minnesota DNR News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New DWI law goes into effect Aug. 1**

*Little Alan's Law provides consistent application of DWI laws*

A new law that goes into effect Aug. 1 means people convicted of driving while intoxicated – regardless of the vehicle they're driving – will lose their driver's license and be prohibited from operating motor vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles, motorboats and snowmobiles. The state Legislature passed the law following the death of 8-year-old Alan Geisenkoetter Jr., who died in January after being struck by a snowmobile driven by a man whose driver's license was revoked after multiple DWI offenses.

Before the law change, people convicted of DWI in a highway-licensed vehicle still could legally operate ATVs, motorboats and snowmobiles. The changes apply to violations that occur on or after Aug. 1.

"We have zero tolerance for people who endanger themselves and other people by operating a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle while they're intoxicated," said Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the Minnesota DNR Enforcement Division. "This new law should send that message that drinking and driving – no matter what the vehicle – isn't acceptable and the consequences are severe."

As an example, a person convicted of DWI in a motorboat, or who refuses testing for a motorboat DWI, would have their driver's license suspended and be prohibited from operating ATVs, motorboats and snowmobiles for one year. Additionally, first-time DWI offenders operating off-road recreational vehicles or motorboats also will be subject to chemical use assessments, conditional release and plate impoundment – the same as a DWI in a highway-licensed vehicle.

The Minnesota DNR and other law enforcement agencies in the state, along with ATV and snowmobile groups, supported the law change, which passed the Legislature with bipartisan support and was signed into law in May by Gov. Mark Dayton.

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