



PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS WHEN ON ICE

It is important to use caution when on ice and follow ice smart safety tips.

- Only use designated ice surfaces that are maintained by knowledgeable local individuals. Designated ice should be regularly tested to ensure thickness and strength for recreational use.
- Measure ice thickness in several locations. Location conditions such as currents and water depths can affect ice thickness.
- White ice has air or snow within it and should be considered suspect for recreational use.

The recommended minimum ice thickness for new clear hard ice is

- 4" (10cm) or less STAY OFF ICE
- 5" (12cm) ice fishing, cross country skiing
- 8" (20cm) one snowmobile or ATV
- 12" (30cm) one car
- 15" (39cm) medium pick up

- Always supervise children playing on or near ice.
- If you drive on ice, have an escape plan. Open your windows, unlock your doors so you can quickly escape from your vehicle. Turn on your head lights so you can be seen.
- Avoid traveling on ice at night as it is difficult to see open wholes.
- Never go on ice alone.
- Stay off river ice. River currents can quickly change ice thickness between different parts of the river.

- Safety equipment to consider; warm clothes, life jacket, ice picks, rope, pocket knife, compass, whistle, fire starter kit and cell phone.

- **AVOID ALCOHOL**, alcohol impairs your judgment and speeds up the development of hypothermia.