

# Make Ice Safety #1!

*Playing on ice, skating, ice fishing and snowmobiling are a natural part of winter.*

## Incident Statistics:

- ❑ Each winter in Canada someone dies in an ice-related incident, and countless others fall through the ice and have a close brush with death.
- ❑ Out of 32 drowning deaths in Alberta and the Northwest Territories in 2009, three occurred on or around the ice.

## Ice Rescue

- ❑ **First, call 911.** Be careful; you can fall through the ice too.
- ❑ Anyone on or near the weak ice should slowly lie down.
- ❑ Use a long reaching assist, i.e. rope, stick or ladder.
- ❑ Tell the person to kick and slowly ease out of the water.
- ❑ Have them crawl or roll away from the broken ice.
- ❑ Make sure you are both far enough away from the hole before you stand up.
- ❑ Help them into dry clothes and treat for hypothermia.



For more information, contact:



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## Use designated ice surfaces.

Designated ponds for skating should be maintained by well-informed personnel and are regularly tested to ensure that the ice is thick enough and strong enough for recreational use.

## Minimum Ice Thickness for New Clear Hard Ice:

Recommendations for ice thickness are based on clear, blue or green ice. White ice has air or snow within it and should be considered suspect.

- 3" (7cm) or less STAY OFF
- 4" (10cm) ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing
- 5" (12cm) one snowmobile or ATV
- 8"-12" (20-30cm) one car or small pickup
- 12"-15" (30-38cm) one medium truck (pickup or van)

## Measure ice thickness in several locations.

Conditions such as currents and water depths affect ice thickness. Ice sections very close together can have very different thickness.

## Always supervise children playing on or near ice.

Insist that they wear a lifejacket, PFD or thermal protection buoyant suit.

## Have an emergency plan

Plan and practice what to do if someone falls through the ice.

## Stay off river ice.

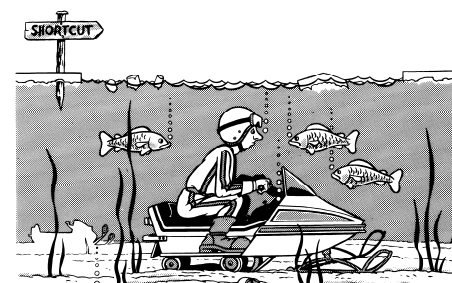
Currents can quickly change ice thickness over night or between different parts of the river.

## Never go onto ice alone.

A buddy may be able to rescue you and/or go for help. Before you leave shore, tell someone else where you are going and expected time of return.

## Wear a snowmobile flotation suit or a lifejacket/PFD.

A lifejacket over your snowmobile suit or layered winter clothes increases your survival chances.



**SNOWMOBILES ARE DEAD WEIGHT ON ICE**

## Take safety equipment

Include ice picks, ice staff, rope, and a small personal safety kit in your pocket, which includes a pocketknife, compass, whistle, fire starter kit and a cell phone.

## Keep your dog on a leash

Go for help, if your dog falls through the ice. The ice will not likely support you either.

## Avoid traveling on ice at night.

Snowmobile related drownings often occur at night as it is difficult to see open holes in the ice.

## If you drive on ice, have an escape plan.

Open your windows, unlock your doors, and turn on your lights. This will allow you to quickly escape from your vehicle.