

Ice Safety

Living here in Wisconsin, many of us are winter outdoor enthusiasts and especially enjoy spending time out on the ice, either ice fishing or skating. With the somewhat mild winter we have been having, temperature wise, anyone considering venturing out for a day of ice fishing or skating, should take some precautions.

If you do plan to spend some time on the ice, please keep these simple guidelines in mind to help ensure your safety.

1. Let others know where you will be and who you will be with.
2. Wear a life jacket and have a compass.
3. Know the strength of the ice before heading out and know the area you will be going. Ice can change quickly.
4. Do not cross cracks with open water.
5. Do not go alone.
6. Carry safety devices to signal for help such as auto flares, a marine radio, cellphone, whistle or any light source. (Remember a cell phones battery life is shorter in cold weather).
7. Be prepared to bail out quickly. If in a vehicle drive with your seatbelt off until off the ice and leave your windows open for easy escape if necessary.
8. Avoid alcoholic beverages! Alcohol increases your chances for hypothermia and also affects your judgement to make good decisions.

Remember, there is no such thing as safe ice, and only you are responsible for your own safety.

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