

ICE FISHING SAFETY TIPS

Know your ice conditions. **NO FISH IS WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE!!**

Wear proper clothing suited for cold and changing weather conditions. Jackets, Hats, Mittens, Boots.

All lakes freeze differently. One lake could have 10" of ice while another lake only 2" ice.

Ice is never consistent on all areas of the lake. Some areas are safe while other spots like current areas should be avoided. **ALL ICE IS NOT THE SAME!!** Solid Ice - Honeycomb / Late Ice differ in strength.

Just because other people are on the ice doesn't mean the entire lake is safe for travel. Shoreline areas freeze faster and thicker than the middle of the lake.

ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE!!

3" inches - generally safe fishing / walking ice

8" inches – generally safe ATV & Gear ice

15" inches – generally safe vehicle ice

*this does not apply to late deteriorating / honeycomb ice

Driving a vehicle on the ice is never recommended and is highly dangerous. Your insurance may not cover your vehicle if it should happen to fall through. Keep windows completely down when occupied.

Be very cautious during first ice and last ice periods.

Always carry a cell phone in case of an emergency and to check weather conditions.

Always tell someone where you are going fishing.

Wear bright / reflective clothing if possible.

Don't fish alone. Fishing with a friend is always a good idea.

Wear / bring along a life preserver. Wear a floatation ice suit.

Bring a long heavy duty 50' rope.

Stay in shape so you can pull yourself out back onto safe ice.

Do not fish alone at night.

If night fishing, wear a headlamp and carry extra flashlights. Also wear reflective clothing.

Snow insulates ice. Even though it may be very cold out, lakes will not make much ice if lots of snow.

Check cracks and bubbles in the ice for ice thickness.

Carry an ice pick and check ice every 10'ft if not familiar with area. Drill holes often.

Wear hand held ice picks to aid in getting back out on to the ice if you should happen to fall through.

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