



Snowmobile Safety

Ice Safety

If you do cross remember that ““No ice is without some risk, and be sure to measure clear hard ice in several places.”

Recommended minimum ice thicknesses are as follows

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

Avoid!

- ◆ Slushy ice
- ◆ Ice on or near moving water i.e., rivers, currents
- ◆ Ice that has thawed and refrozen
- ◆ Layered or rotten ice caused by sudden temperature change

Other factors that weaken or “rot” ice

- ◆ Snow on ice that acts as a blanket to prevent hardening of ice
- ◆ Pressure ridges due to wind or current pressure

What to do if you go through

Going through the ice is a scary experience, being prepared may be the only chance you have. Some things that may help you become prepared are:

- ◆ Wear a buoyant snowmobile suit
- ◆ Carry ice screws (hand-held “spikes”) that can help you get a grip on the ice if you fall through
- ◆ Carry 10-20 ft. of rope
- ◆ STAY SOBER, you will need all of your senses.

If you fall through

- ◆ DO NOT PANIC!
- ◆ Chip away thin ice which surrounds you
- ◆ Reach as far as possible onto the ice
- ◆ Kick your feet vigorously until reaching a horizontal position

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It is critical that the ice quality or type of ice is evaluated before you travel. Clear hard, new ice is the only kind of ice recommended for travel.

If you have any suggestions on traffic safety issues that are of interest to you and your community, or for more information, please contact:

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