

KEEP OFF THE ICE - Safety Advice

Thornton Fire Department urges parents to discuss with their children the importance of staying off the ice that forms on area lakes and ponds during the winter season. Lakes and ponds are not safe for skating or walking on even though it may appear the ice is thick it is likely to have dangerous thin spots. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, and temperature. Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it strong, but it also can insulate the ice and keep it from freezing. Snow also can hide cracks as well as weak and open ice.

It might be tempting to walk or play on the frozen water but the ice can easily break. The cold water temperature can make your arms and legs numb which means you can't control them and can't swim. It can lead to hypothermia - serious reduction in your body temperature - which can cause heart failure and drowning.

Please follow our simple safety steps below:

- Parents, guardians and teachers are urged to remind children and young adults NEVER to venture onto frozen water. Even if it appears thick from the shore, it becomes thinner very quickly.
- Adults - set a good example by staying off the ice yourselves.
- Always keep your pets on a leash. Never throw sticks or balls on the ice for your dog.
- If a dog or other animal ventures onto the ice, or falls through the ice, do NOT go to its rescue - you are likely to end up in the freezing water as well and unable to help the animal.

If you do see a person or animal in trouble on the ice or in the water, stay on the shore and phone 9-1-1.



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