

# Ice safety: steps you can take to stay ice smart

1. Keep away from unfamiliar paths or unknown ice,
2. Avoid travelling on ice at night - clear hard ice is the only kind of ice recommended for travel,
3. If you must venture onto the ice, wear a thermal protection buoyant suit to increase your chances of survival if you fall through. If you do not have one, wear a lifejacket/PFD over an ordinary snowmobile suit or layered winter clothing,
4. Avoid slushy ice, thawed ice that has recently refrozen, layered or rotten ice caused by sudden temperature changes, and ice near moving water (i.e., rivers or currents),
5. Never go on the ice alone; a buddy may be able to rescue you or go for help if you get into difficulty,
6. Before you leave shore, inform someone of your destination and expected time of return, and, ideally,
7. Assemble a small personal safety kit no larger than the size of a man's wallet to carry with you. The kit should include a lighter, waterproof matches, magnesium fire starter, pocketknife, compass and whistle. You should also carry ice picks, an ice staff, a rope and a cellular phone.

### \*\*\* Did you know?

Ice thickness should be:

- 15 cm for walking or skating alone
- 20 cm for skating parties or games
- 25 cm for snowmobiles.

<http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/who%E2%80%99s-drowning/ice-safety.aspx>