



# Be Ice Smart This Winter!



Many Miramichiers, use natural waterbodies such as rivers, lakes or ponds for winter recreational activities. Choosing and maintaining a designated area for ice fishing and skating takes more than just shoveling off the snow cover. Miramichi Fire recommends that you take into consideration the following factors:



## Recommendations for ice thickness are based on clear, blue or green ice:

3" (7cm) or less - STAY OFF!

4" (10cm) - ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing

5-7" (13-18cm) - one snowmobile or ATV

8"-12" (20-30cm) - one car, group of people

12"-15" (30-38cm) - one medium truck (pickup or van)

## Avoid traveling on ice at night

At night it is very difficult to see open holes in the ice.

This is a frequent cause of snowmobile drownings.

## Never go onto ice alone

A buddy may be able to rescue you, or go for help if you get into difficulty. Before you leave shore, tell someone where you are going and expected time of return.



## Stay off river ice

Avoid moving water and stay off water bodies with changing water levels. River currents can quickly change ice thickness over night or between different parts of the river.

## Wear a snowmobile flotation suit or a lifejacket

Wear a lifejacket or PFD over your snowmobile suit or layered winter clothes to increase your survival chances if you do go through the ice.



## Avoid alcohol

Alcohol impairs your judgment and speeds up the development of hypothermia.



## Take safety equipment with you

Include ice picks, ice staff, rope, and a small personal safety kit in your pocket, which should include a lighter, waterproof matches, magnesium fire starter, pocket knife, compass, whistle and a cell phone.

## Always actively supervise children playing on or near ice

Children should always be under active adult supervision. Children that aren't within arm's reach have ventured too far. Insist that they wear a lifejacket/PFD or thermal protection buoyant suit.



## Ice Rescue

Rescuing another person from the ice can be dangerous. The safest way to perform a rescue is from the shore. If you see someone in trouble, call 911

