

# WHEN IS ICE SAFE?

*The Minnesota DNR offers the following information*

**There is no sure answer.  
The strength of ice is dependent upon several factors:**

- ◆ It's appearance ◆ The daily temperature
- ◆ Thickness ◆ Whether it is or isn't covered with snow
- ◆ Depth of the water under the ice ◆ Water chemistry
- ◆ Size of the water body ◆ Distribution of the load of the ice ◆ Local climatic factors

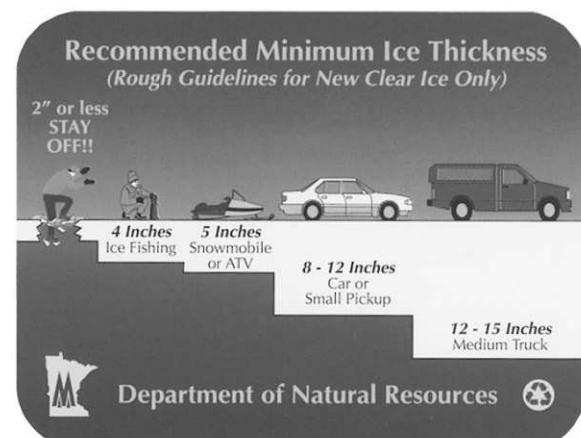
***Ice seldom freezes or thaws at a uniform rate. It can be a foot thick in one spot while, 10 feet away, only an inch thick.***

River ice is generally about 15 percent weaker than ice on lakes. Straight smooth-flowing stretches are safer than river bends. Water level fluctuations weaken ice.

## ***Ice Travel Tips:***

- 1). Before you go out onto ice check with local bait shops, resort owners or other anglers about ice conditions.
- 2). Follow the guidelines on the chart below for safe ice thickness.
- 3). Be prepared to leave your vehicle in a hurry, unbuckle your seatbelt and perhaps roll a window down.
- 4). Be especially cautious at night or when it's snowing to not outride your headlights.
- 5). Drive slowly and do not follow other vehicles too closely.
- 6). Carry a couple large nails and a length of nylon rope in your pocket should you need to rescue yourself or others.

***For an Ice Safety Packet call the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources toll free 1-888-646-6367.***



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