

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
"Proudly Meeting the Needs of our Community"

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Lyle N. Koerner, Jr., Chief

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Emergency Calls | 911 |
| Administration | 715/839-5012 |
| Inspections/Investigation | 715/839-4825 |
| After Hours | 715/839-5013 |
| E-mail | ecfire@eauclairewi.gov |
| City Website | www.eauclairewi.gov |

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2013

IS IT SAFE TO GO ON THE ICE?

Eau Claire, WI – With winter upon us, we see ice forming on our lakes, streams, and ponds. It is only natural that people, especially children, are tempted to test fate and venture out onto the newly formed ice. “Is the ice safe?” is the question they need to ask. Just because it’s frozen and looks solid – it doesn’t mean you can walk or drive on it yet! All early winter ice should be treated as thin ice and considered dangerous.

Ice thickness is one of the many factors that determine the strength of the ice. Water current, springs, aerators under the ice, and snow cover on top of the ice also affect ice conditions. The recent warmer weather and snowfall, which can insulate the new ice from the cold air, will slow down the ice formation process. It is important to test the ice thickness in several places to ensure it is thick enough and strong enough. Ice thickness and condition may vary within the same body of water.

Recommendations for ice thickness are based on clear ice. White ice has air or snow within it and should be considered unstable.

Recommended minimum ice thickness for new clear hard ice is:

3" (7 cm) or less - STAY OFF

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

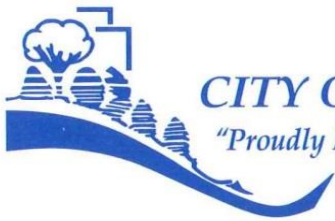
5" (12 cm) – one snowmobile or ATV

8"-12" (20-30 cm) – one car or small pickup

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

Parents are encouraged to caution their children about the dangers of thin ice and to keep children away from lakes, streams, and ponds.

Anyone walking a dog is asked to keep it on a leash. If the dog runs onto the ice, do not attempt to rescue it as you will be putting yourself in danger.



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In an emergency involving people or pets:

- First, call 911. Be careful; you can fall through the ice too.
- Anyone on or near the weak ice should slowly lie down.
- Use a long reaching assist, i.e. rope, stick or ladder.
- Tell the person to kick and slowly ease out of the water.
- Have them crawl or roll away from the broken ice.
- Make sure you are both far enough away from the hole before standing up.
- Help them into dry clothes and treat for hypothermia.

For additional information, please contact:

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