



Ice Fishing Safety Tips

Our mission is to contribute to the safety and security of our citizens, ports, waterways and coastal regions.

Exercise caution while enjoying the natural beauty of the lakes, rivers and bays - especially in winter. Varying levels of ice thickness are common on the water, and weather plays a major role in the types of ice you may encounter.

The only real way to know ice thickness is by getting a sample or boring a hole, but remember that ice thickness varies.

Leave behind an ice plan ...
Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

Information - Remain informed by checking weather and ice conditions before going out. Know your intended destination on the ice, and know how to call for help.

Clothing - Wear sufficient clothing to prevent hypothermia. Choose bright colors and reflective garments to aid searchers if you end up needing help.

Equipment - Never venture onto the ice without proper safety equipment: a marine radio, a Personal Locator Beacon, life jacket, and screw drivers or ice picks, which may allow you to pull yourself out of the water should you break through the ice.

Always carry a charged communication device in case of emergency.

In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Photo by Dennis McCarthy

Questions? Cgaux.org

Additional cold water safety information may be found online at www.coldwaterbootcampusa.org

Travel in pairs, staying several yards apart to ensure you both don't fall through, if the ice breaks.

Spread your weight over a large area. If you hear or see cracking, get low on the ice with your arms and legs spread to distribute your weight.

Crawl or roll back to shore if necessary.