

Safety Guidelines



Hanson
Lake
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ICE SAFETY ON THE LAKE

Enter the ice surface of a frozen lake at your own risk. Ice conditions change frequently.

Ice safety

This information is from the Minnesota DNR website. Visit there link at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html>

When is ice safe?

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

There is no such thing as 100% safe ice.

Some cold facts about ice...

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

Boat Lift / Dock Slinger Aerator. An aerator prevents ice formation around boats, dock pilings, boat houses, fish and wildlife ponds. Aerators bring warmer water from the bottom to the surface in an agitated movement. This movement prevents ice from forming and keeping the water surface open during the winter season. Keeps an area free of ice in the shape of a circle or oval. The size of the opening depends on the temperatures and frequency of use. **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM BOAT LIFTS AND DOCKS (even if you cannot see an aerator).**

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.

[Danger, Thin Ice!](#) - 10 minute MN DNR ice safety video. Click link at left to view.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Hanson Lake Association do not post "thin ice" signs near areas of thin ice. Again, enter the ice surface of a frozen lake at your own risk. Ice conditions change frequently.