

WORKING ON ICE SAFETY TIPS

Working Safely on Ice

Canadians work on ice for many reasons, and it's important to know how to do it safely:

- ***Never go onto ice alone. Bring a buddy, have an emergency plan, and plan and practice what to do if someone falls through the ice.***
- ***It's dangerous to travel on ice at night. Ice conditions change daily and it is difficult to see hazards or warning signs at night.***
- ***If you drive on ice, know how to escape if your vehicle breaks through it.***
- ***Wearing a snowmobile flotation suit or a lifejacket over your winter clothes significantly increases your chance of survival if you fall through ice.***

When working on ice, be prepared and be aware.

Fast Facts

- Over half of drownings related to snowmobiling occur after dark.
- Ice thickness varies drastically within only a few feet. Ice should be tested regularly, in several locations.
- Ice over moving water is high risk and should be avoided.



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Water Smart Facts

Driving On Ice

Know what steps you can take to reduce the risks of driving on ice:

- Be prepared for your vehicle to break through the ice – know how to escape
- Drive with a window down or, at minimum, a window-breaking tool within reach
- Drive slow; driving quickly can cause the ice in front of you to buckle and weaken
- Regularly check ice thickness and avoid ice showing signs of weakness

Escaping Your Vehicle

- Know where to exit – if possible, open your door or window; electric windows don't work under water
- If you're able to get out of the vehicle and onto ice, try to get to the ice beside or behind the vehicle; ice behind your vehicle is likely to be the strongest
- If you escape under water, follow the bubbles up and look for a dark spot, an indicator of the hole in the ice



Have an Ice Emergency Plan

Whether heading onto the ice for work or leisure, it's important to have an emergency plan and be prepared to use it.

- Bring a buddy
- Plan out your day on the ice and let a responsible person on land know where you are going and when you'll be back
- Make sure the ice has been tested and is an appropriate thickness for your activity
- Wear a lifejacket or flotation suit in case of an unexpected fall-through