



Ontario Provincial Police  
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

## News Release/ Communiqué

**FROM/DE: Haldimand County Detachment**

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### **IS THE ICE SAFE?**

**(HALDIMAND COUNTY, ON.)** – Haldimand County OPP would like to remind everyone to be cautious of ice waterways. This years fluctuating temperatures has caused ice conditions to be questionable. To assist in being safe consider the following facts.

- Ice does not freeze at a uniform thickness across most lakes and rivers. This can be particularly evident at the start of the winter season. When near-shore ice is often much thicker and safer than ice further out. Anglers should check thickness regularly with a spud bar or auger as they move further out on the ice.
- Not all ice is created equal. Ice that has formed over flowing water, springs, pressure cracks, old ice holes or around the mouths of rivers and streams can be weaker than surrounding ice.
- Clear blue ice is the strongest. White or opaque ice is much weaker. Ice that has a honeycombed look, common during thaws or in the spring, should be avoided altogether.
- Traveling on frozen lakes or rivers with snowmobiles or vehicles can be particularly dangerous and added precautions must be taken. At least 20 centimeters (eight inches) of clear blue ice is required for snowmobiles and 30 centimeters (12 inches) or more is needed for most light vehicles. Double this amount if the ice is white or opaque.
- Heavy snow on frozen lakes and rivers can insulate the ice below, causing the ice to freeze slower.
- It's important to let others know where you're planning to fish and advise when you plan to return. If you are missing, rescue crews can narrow their search and potentially save your life.
- Parents be mindful while children are outdoors. They are curious and quite often attracted to water and iced areas. Speak to them and educate about the dangers of waterways and ice conditions.

Winter weather conditions can be unpredictable and variable, proper equipment and experience is necessary to have a safe winter season on the ice.

- 30 -

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