

ICE SAFETY

Now that winter has finally arrived, the local ponds and waterways have begun to ice over. With this in mind the Manasquan Fire Department would like to pass along some ice safety tips.

The first thing is that no ice is really safe ice The ice varies in thickness over the water and the presence of tree stumps, springs, and waterfowl will lessen the ice's strength.. As a general rule the ice should be at least four inches thick to support one person. Ice on salt water in any area is never safe.

If you encounter someone who has fallen through the ice the first thing you should is dial 911, next try to use something to extend out to the victim from a safe area. Use a pole, tree branch, ladder, even your jacket if the victim is close enough. Failing this you can try to throw something that will provide flotation to them, items such as a life jacket, cooler, inner tube, and other objects that will provide flotation. A rope may also be used to help the victim remove themselves. In all cases do not go out onto the ice to get the victim, remember the ice was not strong enough to support one person and has already been weakened.

Should you find yourself plunging through the ice, the first thing is to remain calm. Next place your forearms on the ice shelf in front of you and pull yourself up while kicking vigorously. Once you are out of the hole remain prone and roll away from the hole. **DO NOT STAND UP!** By remaining in a prone position you disperse your body weight more evenly across the ice. If this does not work remain calm and try to keep your forearms on the ice shelf to provide support while yelling for help.