

Safety Tips:

Frozen Lakes and Rivers

Before going onto a frozen lake, pond or river, it's important to take safety precautions to reduce the risk of falling through the ice.

Look for clear blue ice. New ice is stronger than old ice. Remember you take a risk anytime you go onto the ice. Ice thickness is not consistent. Beware of ice around partially submerged objects such as trees, brush, embankments or structures. Ice will not form as quickly where water is shallow or where objects may absorb sunlight. When ice fishing, it is always a good idea to drill test holes or use an ice chisel as you venture onto a lake to help judge the thickness and character of the ice.



What To Do If You Fall In

- Try not to panic.
- Turn toward the direction you came. The safest place to pull yourself back up on the ice is the last place you stepped before you went through the ice.
- Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface of the ice.
- Work your way up by kicking your feet.
- Use your ice picks to assist in pulling yourself onto the ice.
- Once you are lying on the ice, roll away from the weak or broken ice, don't attempt to stand up.

Information Courtesy of North Dakota Game and Fish <https://gf.nd.gov/ice-safety>