

## OUTDOOR SKATING SAFETY TIPS

The first rule of ice safety is respect. Ice is not a living creature, of course, but it resembles one. It's born, gaining strength thru its early life. Occasional illnesses may reduce its strength. Eventually, it will weaken and finally, it will go away.

Always stay alert for changes or indications that the ice is unsafe. Temper every decision with the knowledge that the water beneath can **EASILY** and **QUICKLY TAKE YOUR LIFE**. It is impossible to determine what safe ice for all situations is. Sub-bodies of water freeze at different rates. A spud or auger is a good tool for testing the thickness of the ice. Walk slowly and tap the ice every few steps. Next chop test holes. Remember that ice quality varies greatly from day to day. Variations are common along the shore where water levels change. Docks, posts, and stream inlets and outlets spell trouble too. Objects that are dark draw heat from sunlight and create danger as well. The season's first ice is often inconsistent, and springs fed lakes have patches of thin ice all winter.

If you drive on the ice, the lake should be frozen all the way through. When driving, keep the doors ajar and the windows open. There will be too much pressure against the doors to open them if you go into the water.

### THICKNESS GUIDE

STAY OFF 1 INCH OR LESS OF ICE

2 INCHES WOULD BE OKAY FOR A WIDELY SCATTERED GROUP

4 INCHES WOULD PROVIDE FOR SAFE LAKE SKATING

DO NOT SNOWMACHINE ON ANY LESS THAN 5 INCHES OF ICE

### QUICK REMINDERS

NEVER skate alone.

Before winter, put a post up with a ring for a throw line.

Check the ice every time you skate.

Bring blankets and a rope.

Above all...Have Fun!

Skating is great aerobic exercise for everyone!