

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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Ice Out 2011

April 14, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Snow is in the forecast yet there is one encouraging sign that spring has arrived. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office has declared an "ice out" for 2011.

Today, at 6 a.m., the Sheriff's Office determined the ice out was official. The Sheriff's Office declares an ice out when a boat can be piloted on Lake Minnetonka through the "Narrows" around Big Island and back to the Sheriff's Water Patrol Unit located on Lake Minnetonka in Spring Park. Typically on Lake Minnetonka, the ice out takes place on April 15.

The Sheriff's Office urges people to take precautions when they are on the water – or near water -- this time of year. Safety reminders include:

- Due to elevated water levels on the Mississippi River, conditions are dangerous with fast moving water and currents. This is not the time of year to take your boat out on the river to test if everything is running properly.
- Use caution when boating on Lake Minnetonka, there are many navigational buoys that are not in place yet.
- It's especially important to wear a life jacket when boating. At this time, water temperatures on Lake Minnetonka are cold, if you were to fall into water, hypothermia happens quickly in these conditions.
- When boating or spending time near water, let someone know where you are going and when you will return.

For more information, contact PIO Lisa Kiava at 612-919-5918 or lisa.kiava@co.hennepin.mn.us

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