

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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Safety alert: Avoid thin ice in Hennepin County

March 23, 2010 (Minneapolis) – Hennepin Sheriff Rich Stanek is reminding parents and guardians to keep children away from thin ice on rivers, ponds, creeks, and lakes. When your child is near the ice or water, you should be near your child.

Some school districts have spring break this week and others have scheduled vacation days in the coming weeks. When children have more time on their hands, they may explore lakes and other areas with water. Please ensure your children stay off of partially-frozen bodies of water.

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office warns that with recent rising temperatures, ice on area lakes is very dangerous. With warmer temperatures and run-off from streets and yards - ice along the shoreline is rapidly thawing and there are areas of open water. A dusting of frost may give thin ice the appearance that it is safe when it is not.

Remember to keep your dog on a leash this time of year. The Sheriff's Office Water Patrol responds to incidents involving pet owners who put themselves in jeopardy chasing a dog that wandered onto thin ice.

On Lake Minnetonka, there have been a few late season anglers on the ice in recent days. Ice conditions are considered unsafe and ice fishing is not recommended at this time.

The 2009-2010 winter season has been safe on Hennepin County waterways. The Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit reports there have been no significant injuries and no deaths in Hennepin County related to someone going through the ice.

For more information about ice safety, the DNR has tips online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice>.

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