

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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Thin ice warning for Hennepin County **Two snowmobiles & a backhoe fell into water**

February 15, 2011 (Minneapolis) – The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office is urging people to use caution on all bodies of water due to the warmer weather causing thinning ice conditions.

Over the weekend, the Sheriff's Office responded to three separate incidents involving snowmobiles or equipment that wound up in the water in the Lake Minnetonka area:

Saturday, February 12:

- A backhoe fell through thin ice at Halsted's Bay, Lake Minnetonka

Sunday, February 13:

- A snowmobile drove into open water in Six Mile Creek near Lake Minnetonka
- Another snowmobile drove into open water in St. Alban's Channel, Lake Minnetonka

No one was injured in the incidents. The snowmobiles and backhoe have been removed from the water.

Among the areas of concern in Hennepin County:

- There is thinning ice or open water in the channels of Lake Minnetonka.
- The Crow River is dangerous and should be avoided due to extremely thin ice.
- Small bodies of water, such as rivers, ponds and creeks are a hazard and should be avoided due to deteriorating ice or areas of open water.
- On all bodies of water, a dusting of snow or frost may give ice the appearance that it is safe when it is not. When ice is less than two inches thick, no one should attempt to walk on it.

Parents and guardians are warned to keep children away from thin ice. If your child is near the ice, you should be near your child. Remember to keep your dog on a leash this time of year. The Sheriff's Office has responded to incidents involving pet owners who put themselves in jeopardy chasing after a dog that wandered onto the ice.

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

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