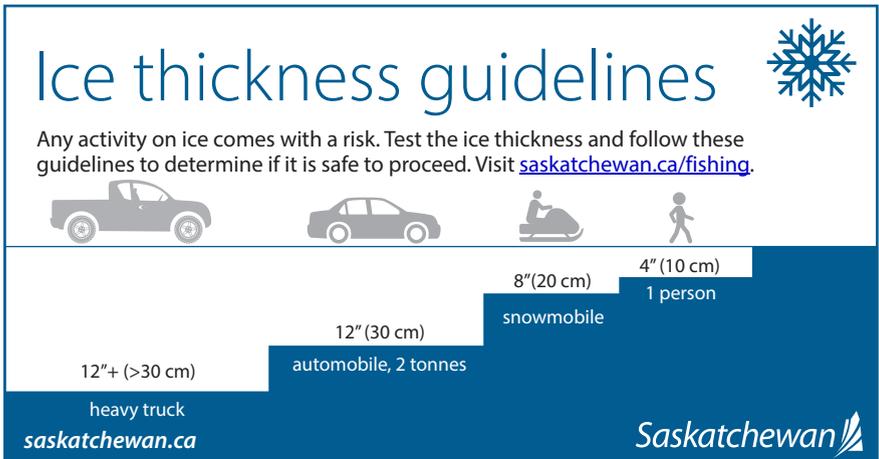


Winter Ice Safety

Apply the following guidelines, and use caution and common sense:

- before you leave, always tell someone where you will be fishing and when you plan to return;
- try to fish with other anglers rather than alone;
- test the ice thickness before you travel on it and check with other local anglers for information about the water body;
- ice does not freeze at a uniform thickness and ice strength can vary considerably from one area to another due to air temperature, water currents (especially around the mouths of streams and rivers), pressure cracks, springs, old holes and heavy snow insulation;
- particularly in the early part of the winter season, ice near shore is often much thicker and safer than ice further out onto the lake;
- heavy snow cover can insulate the ice below and cause the ice to form much more slowly;
- if driving on the ice, drive slowly, keep the windows down and apply brakes gradually; and
- wear proper cold weather apparel and layer clothing to stay warm. Assemble some safety gear for emergencies such as a cell phone, ice picks, a throw rope, flares and a life jacket or flotation suit.



These are guidelines only. Ice conditions often change rapidly and can present serious safety risks. The Government of Saskatchewan assumes no liability for harm related to reliance upon these guidelines.

Boat safety - are you prepared for a day on the water?

Before heading out on the water, be prepared and keep these simple safety tips in mind:

- Always wear a Canadian-approved lifejacket while boating. It could save your life. Make sure it fits properly and that all buckles, straps, zippers and fabric are in good condition.
- Be prepared. Ensure all required safety equipment is onboard, works well and is within easy reach. If you find missing or broken equipment, fix or replace it before you go.
- Take a boating safety course. Learn basic boating safety knowledge and understand the “rules of the road.” If operating a motorized boat, get a Pleasure Craft Operator Card or another approved form of operator competency. It's the law. Also, remember to have your proof of competency onboard the boat while underway.
- Check local weather forecasts and be ready to change your plans if the weather turns bad.
- Know the waterway. Reefs, stumps, rocks, changing water levels and sandbars are examples of hazards you need to know about. Carry local marine charts, if available, or ask someone who knows the waterway well about any hidden hazards.
- Does your boat need a pleasure craft licence? In Canada, all boats powered by motors 7.5 kW (10 hp) or more, must be licensed. This licence is free and is good for 10 years. In an emergency, search and rescue personnel can access information about your boat using the licence number, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- File a sail plan. Tell someone you trust where you are going and when you will be back.
- Check your fuel supply. Remember the rule: 1/3 to go, 1/3 to return and 1/3 in reserve.
- Respect the limits of your boat. Follow the guidelines on the boat's compliance label. Don't overload or carry more weight or people than listed.
- Boat sober. Operating a boat while impaired is dangerous and an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.

For more information, please visit the Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety website at tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety.