



MERRIMACK VALLEY DIVE RESCUE

P.O. Box 387 Billerica, Massachusetts 01821-0387

ICE SAFETY TIPS

DANGER SIGNS

Water on the ice	Currents are present
Open spots of water in the ice	Canals
Birds on the ice	Snow on the ice
Items sticking through the ice	Springs & Tributaries
Near walls, docks, and rocks	Warm, sunny days
Cracks (wet, dry, intersecting)	Murky, cloudy coloring
Extreme temperature fluctuations (+/-) 30°F	Where drainage pipes/run-offs merge with
Impurities in the water (chemicals, pollutants, salt)	a body of water

WHAT TO DO WHEN AN ACCIDENT OCCURS

- Yell for help and send someone to call 911
- Talk to the person – try to calm them down and encourage them to get themselves out
- Mark the spot where you are when you see the person with an item that will stay (i.e.- a glove, hat, book bag, etc...)
- If no one hears you and you are alone, go call for help and RETURN
- If the person is close enough to shore you may try:
 - **REACH**ing something out to the person (i.e.-stick, branch, etc...)
 - **THROW**ing something out to the person (i.e.-rope or a floating item such as a basketball)
- If the person goes underwater, get help and stay at the scene until interviewed by a Dive Team member, even if someone tells you it is OK to leave

REMEMBER!

DO NOT go onto the ice to try to affect a rescue

DO NOT form a Human Chain

Thick Ice DOES NOT EQUAL Safe Ice

DO NOT attempt to save animals – call for help

If you witness an accident, STAY at the SITE
What you saw may make the difference between life & death

(revision: 09/2004)

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