



Press Release

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U S Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs

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FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unfortunately, there were seven deaths reported in the Great Lakes Region, this weekend, that resulted from ice-related mishaps.

This includes the tragedy of three young lives lost on the Sandusky River, near Fremont Ohio this week.

These incidents may have been preventable, and the U.S. Coast Guard would like to remind the public that ice is an ever-changing surface and the fluctuating weather conditions greatly affect the ice's stability. In an effort to prevent, prepare and educate recreational ice fisherman, the Coast Guard would like to encourage people to remember the following: I - C - E

I - Intelligence - check weather and ice conditions, where you are going and know how to call for help.

C - Clothing - wear proper anti-exposure clothes with multiple layers. If possible, wear a dry suit to prevent hypothermia, which can occur within minutes after falling through the ice.

E - Equipment - have the proper equipment such as a marine band radio, life jackets and screw drivers.

Recreational ice fisherman are encouraged to:

- Use the buddy system. NEVER go out on the ice alone.
- Dress in bright colors; wear a waterproof anti-exposure suit, and personal flotation device (PFD).
- Carry two ice picks or screwdrivers for self-rescue; much more effective than using your hands.
- Carry a whistle, noise-making device to alert people if in distress; and cell phone or VHF-FM radio.
- Stay away from cracks, seams, pressure ridges and slushy areas, which signify thinner ice.

Because Great Lakes ice is dangerous and unpredictable, the threat of hypothermia is always present with a potential fall through the ice. Hypothermia begins to set in quickly as the human body's core temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 C).

To treat hypothermia, handle the victim gently, get them indoors and remove clothing, then dry the victim promptly and wrap in blankets. Lastly, transfer the victim to rescue and/or medical authorities immediately.

AVOID the following actions with hypothermia:

NEVER rub or massage the extremities
NEVER give alcohol or caffeinated products
NEVER apply ice
NEVER apply external heat sources directly to the skin
NEVER allow the person to smoke

The Coast Guard would like everyone to take an active part to enhance their chances for rescue and survival with a commitment to safety this year and beyond.

For media inquiries or to talk to a U.S. Coast Guard unit about ice safety, contact [Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs](#)

Office 216-902-6020.

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Edited from original release received for re-trans from: Jerri -DCO 9CR- for one page transmission by P Wesley (SO-PA 16 9CR)