

# BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MARCH 2023 PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS:

These tips are intended for residents, visitors and property owners of Brookfield, VT but may apply to neighboring towns as well.

### ICE AND SNOW SAFETY.

Each year the news carries stories about people going through the ice. Here is some ice safety, for all to heed!

- Always consider ice to be potentially dangerous. New ice is stronger than old ice. Ice formed over moving water is often more dangerous, that includes springs, making thin spots.
- When in doubt about the safety of the ice, wear a life jacket, which can help you float and add some insulation as well
- Before you go: tell someone your plans and when you expect to return. Avoid going alone. Carry a cell phone. Carry ice picks (two wood dowels with nails in one end, attached together by a piece of rope) around your neck. They can be used to dig into the ice, to help get you out of the ice hole. Use them to pull yourself up onto the ice while kicking.
- Once your torso is on firm ice, lie flat and roll to thicker ice, the same way that you came. Try and get into dry clothing, find shelter and get warm. Seek medical attention immediately!
- If you witness someone or a pet fall in a hole in the ice: DON'T PANIC!!! Holler loudly for some help, if anyone is nearby. Call 911 if possible. If you are not sure if the situation is too dangerous, then wait for help. Untrained rescuers can become victims themselves.
- If you can safely reach them, extend a rope, tree branch, ladder, or jumper cables, etc. (not your hand(s)) to them.

THE FOLLOWING ICE THICKNESS GUIDELINES are for clear, blue/black ice. White ice or snow ice is only half as strong and can be unpredictable. Avoid going onto it.

ICE THICKNESS (inches).	PERMISSIBLE LOADS (clear ice)
2" or less -----	STAY OFF!
4". -----	Fishing or activities on foot.
5". -----	Snowmobile or ATV.
8"-12". -----	Car or small truck.
12"-15". -----	Medium truck.
15" or more.-----	Most things.

- You might want to check with your insurance agent before you take your vehicle onto the ice. Would you be covered if you go through the ice?
- Also often in the news is a warning for back country skiers, snowboarders and hikers. You should watch out for the chance of avalanches, along hillsides and trails. Learn before you go about avalanche safety and what to do if you are stuck in one. Be sure to tell friends and family where you are going and when you expect to return.

**BE SAFE and BE CAREFULL!!!**

Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee: Mike Stoddard, Michael Rutkovsky, Stuart Edson, Dan Mason, and Lew Stowell.