

# Winter Safety Suggestions

Anchorage Parks and Recreation

ANCHORAGE



PARKS & RECREATION

## SAFETY ON ICE THESE ARE ONLY GUIDELINES NOT GUARANTEES!

Thickness is only one of many determining factors in ice safety. The following guidelines can indicate the strength of clear, solid ice and what activities can be safely supported.

- ❁ 2 inches of clear, solid ice—walking without stopping
- ❁ 4 inches— ice fishing
- ❁ 5 inches—snow machines
- ❁ 8-12 inches—vehicles
- ❁ New ice is stronger than old ice
- ❁ River ice is generally weaker than lake ice

Other factors which affect ice strength include weather, water depth and size of water body, currents or underground springs, water level fluctuation, obstructions and actions of birds and fish.

## BE ALERT!

Watch for these signs of weak ice:

1. Ice of varying colors, such as black or gray
2. Ice near obstructions, such as vegetation, logs and rocks
3. Slush or snow on the ice
4. Bubbles or water on the ice surface
5. Porous quality of ice
6. Cracks in the ice
7. Pressure ridges or faults
8. Water running underneath the ice
9. Open water in the middle of deep lakes



## FALL/WINTER SNOW TRAIL ETIQUETTE

1. **Do not take dogs, horses or mountain bikes on designated ski trails.** These activities destroy groomed trails and may create hazards. On multi-use or skijoring trails please remember to scoop after your dogs and avoid walking on diagonal ski tracks.
2. **Watch for grooming equipment any time of the day or night.** Please move well off the trail to allow equipment to pass.
3. **Avoid skiing directly behind grooming equipment.** It takes 2-4 hours for freshly groomed snow to “set up” and harden. Fresh tracks are irresistible, but resisting can make the trails last longer.
4. **Travel in the indicated direction of traffic.** Practicing this rule will prevent accidents and damage to the tracks.
5. **Do not skate across diagonal tracks.** Respect the **DIAGONAL/CLASSICAL SKIING ONLY** trails.
6. **You were a beginner too.** Be respectful and considerate of other’s skiing abilities. If you fall, fill in the hole.
7. **Please respect wildlife.** Remember that you are in their habitat.
8. **Closed trails are for your safety.** During competitions, portions of the trail system may be closed. Please respect all closures.
9. **Don’t become a trail obstacle.** If you fall, get clear of the trail quickly and repair the damage. Do not stop where you obstruct the trail or are not visible.
10. **A pulled sled is allowed on multi-use trails.** If you tow a sled, please use skate lanes.
11. **Passing is a two-way affair.** When passing, pleasantly let those ahead know your intentions well in advance so they have time to move aside.
12. **Horses know the human voice.** Use spoken words when passing equestrians on multi-use trails. Ample warning will help them control their animals.
13. **Dog mushing trails are for the dogs.** Dog teams travel up to 40 mph and cannot stop quickly. If you find yourself on their trail with a team coming, get off into the snow then retrace your route.
14. **Multi-use trails are for all.** When you ski on multi-use trails, respect the right of others
15. **Trails are for non-motorized activities.** Please report any motorized activities on trails to Anchorage Police Department at 786-8900.

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIERS

Skiers coming downhill have the right of way  
Improved technique—improves your fun  
When stopping, move to the side of the trail  
Leave dogs at home

Do not walk on the groomed trails  
Obey all signs and ski within your ability  
Bring a headlight—in the event of a power outage