

# Ice Safety (Canadian Red Cross)

## *Know the dangers of ice*

### Ice Factors:

Many factors affect ice thickness including: type of water, location, the time of year and other environmental factors such as:

- Water depth and size of body of water.
- Currents, tides and other moving water.
- Chemicals including salt.
- Fluctuations in water levels.
- Logs, rocks and docks absorbing heat from the sun.
- Changing air temperature.
- Shock waves from vehicles traveling on the ice.

### Ice Colour:

The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength.

- Clear blue ice is strongest.
- White opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice. Opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice.
- Grey ice is unsafe. The grayness indicates the presence of water.

### **Did you know ice thickness should be:**

- 15 cm for walking or skating alone
- 20 cm for skating parties or games
- 25 cm for snowmobiles.

Check with local authorities before heading out. Avoid going out on ice at night.