



Prevention capsule hazards on ice

Every year, the fire department carries out water rescues and is on alert because some more adventurous people venture onto the lakes, streams and the Gatineau River. Be aware that with the return of good weather, waterways are becoming less and less safe.

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

- the depth of the water and the size of the body of water.
- currents, and other water movements.
- chemicals including salt.
- fluctuations in water levels.
- logs, rocks and docks, which absorb the sun's heat.
- changes in air temperature.

Ice colour:

- The colour of the ice can give an indication of its strength;
- Pale blue ice: This type of ice is the strongest;
- Opaque white ice or snow ice: In general, it is only half as solid as the pale blue ice. Opaque ice forms when waterlogged snow freezes on the surface of the ice;
- Grey ice: it is not safe. The gray color indicates the presence of water.

The fire department asks you not to venture onto the ice.

