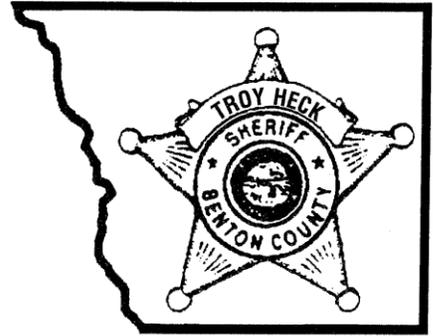


BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

Topic: **Fish House Safety and Security**

Burglaries occur everyday in Minnesota cities, but cities do not necessarily need paved roads and businesses to exist. During the winter months in Minnesota, our frozen lakes become their own cities filled with fish houses. Many lakes are located in rural areas where law enforcement coverage is minimal.

Protecting Yourself and Your Fish House

Fish houses are filled with expensive fishing equipment, and many times, electronics and appliances. Since fish houses are made to be portable, and sometimes collapsible, the construction is not as secure as our homes. Locking mechanisms range from no lock to a deadbolt. Implementing the following will reduce your risk of becoming the victim of a crime on the ice.

- Mark your property with Operation ID. You can sign up through your local police department.
- Mount door hinges inside or use hinge pins to prevent removal.
- Install a deadbolt, if possible.
- Cover windows to conceal the contents and valuables inside your fish house.
- Windows should be locked small enough that they can not be crawled through.
- Communicate with your fishing neighbors. Find out who they are and who should be coming and going from their fish house.
- Report any suspicious activity while it is occurring.
- Get a good description of the suspect, vehicle, and direction of travel.
- Know your location on the ice so you can be found quickly.