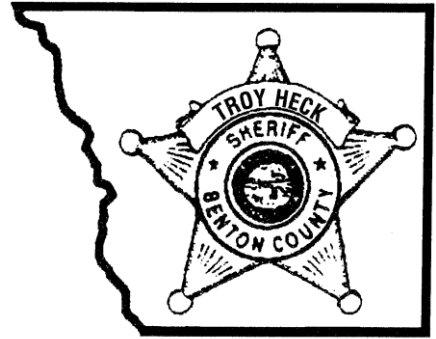


# BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**Troy Heck, Sheriff**  
**Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy**

Topics of the Month: **Winter Ice Safety**

## Ice Safety

With winter weather, changing temperatures and the holidays approaching, it is helpful to remind parents, children and sportsmen to be careful before venturing out onto frozen lakes and ponds. Ice is not yet safe to walk on and even "safe ice" can change quickly with rising temperature and current. Be especially careful before driving any vehicle, 4-wheeler or snowmobile onto frozen rivers or lakes. Make sure to wear a warm hat to help retain body warmth. Warn children to stay away from open water and ice-covered ponds or streams.

### Facts:

- ✍ 65% of all ice drownings are vehicle related.
- ✍ Several children die in Minnesota every year in thin ice-related incidents.
- ✍ Hypothermia and frostbite can become life or limb threatening in a few minutes.
- ✍ 70% of body heat is lost through your head if unprotected.

### Safety Steps:

- ✍ Never walk on ice less than 4 inches thick.
- ✍ Never snowmobile on ice less than 5 inches thick.
- ✍ Never drive a vehicle on ice less than 8 inches of new, clear ice.
- ✍ Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages when operating a snowmobile.
- ✍ **Take a snowmobile course offered by the Department of Natural Resources.**