

SYNOPSIS OF THE

LAKE MINNETONKA

WINTER RULES

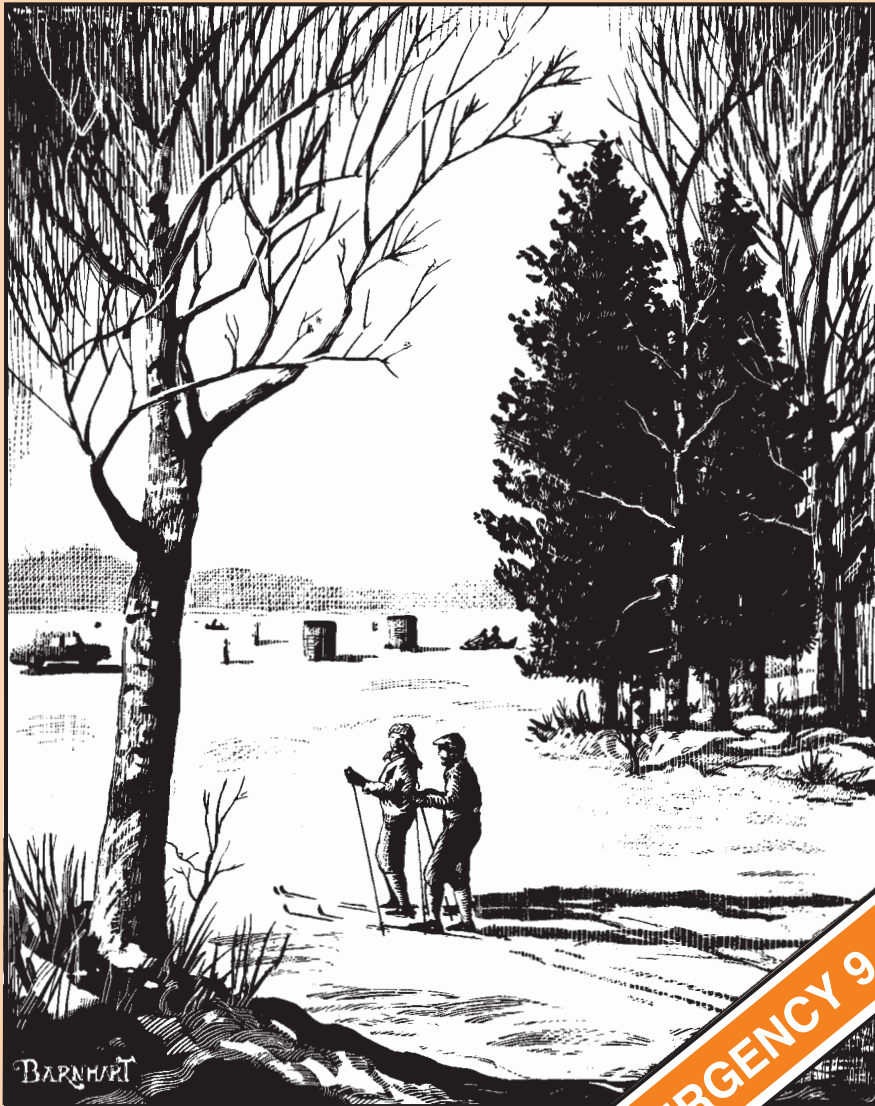


Hennepin Co. Sheriff's Water Patrol Division, Pat McGowan, Sheriff
Box 187, Spring Park, Minnesota 55384 • Phone (952) 471-1300



LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District is a governing body set up by the State Legislature to enact ordinances to regulate activity on Lake Minnetonka.



BARNHART

Updated 10/03

EMERGENCY 911

WINTER RULES

GENERAL RULES

Access You must enter the Lake at a public access or from your own property unless you have written permission from another property owner to use his/her property.

Barriers Around Thin Ice or Open Water The Sheriff may, when deemed necessary, place markers, signs, barriers, fences, etc. around or near thin ice or open water. It is unlawful to disobey such signs, drive or walk in the forbidden area, or move, remove, deface, or damage such signs.

Pieces of Ice Pieces of ice cut from the Lake may not be left on the surface, but must be put back in the hole or be slid under the ice.

Litter No litter, trash, rubbish or garbage of any kind may be left on the Lake surface. "What you take to the Lake - please take it back."

Special Events Permits are required for most types of special event including but not limited to motorized meets, ice boat regattas, fishing tournaments, and similar activities. The LMCD recognizes that it may be in the public interest to permit certain special events which by their very nature may require operation of vehicles or the temporary placing of structures which would otherwise be prohibited by Code. The permitting procedure establishes a way of determining whether such events are consistent with public safety and the unique quality of the Lake as a recreational resource. However, motor vehicle races are specifically prohibited.

Scuba Diving Diving flags must be displayed at entrance and exit hole.

Deicing A license is required from the LMCD and requires an application and the payment of a fee. Underwater bubblers designed to open water around docks is permitted in special circumstances.

State Statutes State Statutes and local ordinances pertaining to the Lake surface use must be adhered to.

MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Definition Motorized vehicles are all vehicles with internal combustion engines including but not limited to autos, trucks, motor homes, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles (ATV), motorcycles, dirt bikes, and other motorized vehicles.

Operation To operate on the Lake ice (surface) a motorized vehicle must be equipped with the safety equipment described herein and be muffled as described herein.

Safety Equipment Vehicles must be equipped with at least one head lamp, one red tail lamp, brakes, muffler, and snowmobiles must have a safety throttle which disengages the motor when pressure is released. All such equipment must conform to DNR regulations.

Muffler All motor vehicles must be equipped with a muffler in good working order which reduces exhaust noise to over-all permitted levels. "Cut outs" or "by passes" are prohibited. The exhaust system may not produce a sharp

popping or crackling sound. Noise levels must not exceed those established by the DNR for various vehicles.

Snowmobile Operation by Persons Under 18 Persons under 18 years of age may operate a snowmobile on Lake Minnetonka if they are being supervised by an adult. If a person under 18 passed the snowmobile safety course, obtained a valid snowmobile safety certificate and has the certificate in his/her immediate possession (in his/her pocket or the glove box of the snowmobile), he/she may operate a snowmobile on the Lake without adult supervision.

Owner Responsibility (Snowmobile) It is unlawful for the owner of a snowmobile to permit it to be operated on the Lake by a juvenile (under 18) unless the juvenile has a valid safety certificate in his/her immediate possession or is under the direct supervision of an adult, 18 years and up.

ATV Operations by Persons Under 18 Years of Age (Juvenile) Persons under 14 may operate an ATV on the Lake if they are accompanied by and under the supervision of an adult, 18 years and up. However, a person 12 years of age or older may operate an ATV on the Lake without adult supervision if he/she has passed the ATV safety course, obtained a valid ATV safety certificate issued by the DNR of the State of Minnesota, and has said certificate in his/her immediate possession. ATV safety certificates issued by the commissioner to persons 12 years old, but less than 16 years old, are not valid for machines in excess of 90cc engine capacity.

Owner Responsibility (ATV) It is unlawful for the owner of an ATV to allow it to be operated by under-age persons contrary to the above section.

Helmet A person under 18 years is required to wear a suitable helmet that complies with helmet standards established by the Commissioner of Public Safety while operating an ATV or a snowmobile.

Hitching or Towing A straight arm bar must be used to tow a sled or trailer containing passengers while operating an ATV. No person shall hitch a toboggan, sled, bicycle, or similar device onto a motor vehicle.

MOTOR VEHICLE SPEEDS

General Speed and Operation Rule A person shall not operate a motorized vehicle on the ice of the Lake:

- a. in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger people or property
- b. at a rate of speed higher than that which will allow the operator to brake the machine to a stop within the "assured clear distance ahead"
- c. at a speed greater than the prevailing conditions will allow for safe operation
- d. while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- e. without a lighted headlight and tail light when required for safety
- f. that does not comply with the noise standards established for that type of vehicle by the DNR or DoT.

Shorezone Established A shorezone is that area of the ice on the Lake within 150 feet of the shoreline. The shorezone is reserved for non-motorized

activities including but not limited to walking, skating, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and fishing. Motorized vehicles must stay clear of the shorezone except as specifically permitted as follows:

- a. A motorized vehicle may traverse the shorezone at a speed not in excess of 15 mph and only by the shortest direct route from the shoreline to the 150 foot line and return by the most direct route for leaving the Lake.
- b. A motorized vehicle may traverse the shorezone (with 15 mph speed limit) approximately parallel to the shoreline in narrow areas of the Lake (i.e., the channels) when necessary to proceed from one bay to another.

Speed and Operation Outside of Shorezone Outside the shorezone the motorized vehicle speed limit is 40 mph for daytime hours and 30 mph for night time hours. If a snowmobile is more than 1,000 feet from the shoreline, its daytime speed limit is 50 mph.

Slow Speed Requirements All motorized vehicles have a speed limit of 15 mph when they are within 150 feet from persons fishing, a fish house, a pedestrian, a skier, a skater, a skating rink, or a gathering of people or property.

Unattended Motorized Vehicles It is unlawful to leave a motorized vehicle unattended on the Lake while the motor is running or with the key in the ignition or without a lockable ignition switch.

Impounding Motor Vehicles Motor vehicles may be removed from the Lake by the Sheriff or other duly authorized law enforcement officer if the motor vehicle:

- a. is unattended and represents a hazard
- b. is unattended for more than 6 hours
- c. is unattended during nighttime hours
- d. is unattended and missing vital component parts
- e. constitutes a hazard and the person in charge of the motor vehicle is physically incapacitated in such a way as to be unable to properly provide for its custody and control, or
- f. operator has been taken into custody by a law enforcement officer and the vehicle would otherwise be left unattended.

Operating a Motorized Vehicle While Under the Influence It is unlawful to operate a motorized vehicle on Lake Minnetonka while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. The law also authorizes preliminary breath testing and, upon conviction, the loss of driving privileges for refusal to take a chemical test or upon conviction of alcohol concentration in the blood, in excess of limitation established by state law.

This is a summary of the various rules governing conduct on Lake Minnetonka. It is distributed for purpose of educating the public, but it is not a text of the actual laws applicable to the Lake. Laws and regulations of the State of Minnesota and its agencies, and ordinances of the LMCD should be consulted for the exact language of such laws, regulations and ordinances.

REMEMBER! HYPOTHERMIA IS THE NUMBER ONE KILLER OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONISTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

HYPOTHERMIA

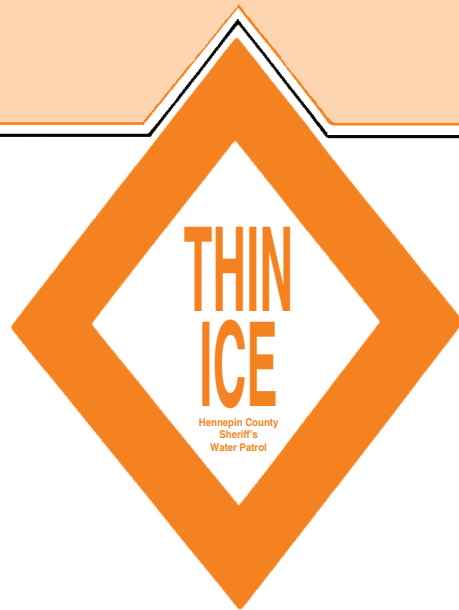
Hypothermia is a condition which can occur when the body is losing heat faster than it can be produced, thus lowering the normal body core temperature. As the body temperature falls, vital organs fail to function. It is assumed that a person may die if his normal core temperature (98.6 degrees) drops below 78 degrees. Three factors come into play in causing hypothermia: Cold, Wetness, and Wind.

First aid for hypothermia requires warming the victim and removing any wet clothing. Below are listed some basic steps to follow:

1. Get victim out of water if possible. SEND SOMEONE FOR HELP. DIAL 9-1-1 in Metro area.
2. After victim is out of the water, make sure he is breathing and has a pulse. If not-start CPR.
3. Get victim to Warmth—preferably, indoors. BUT DON'T WASTE TIME. A car, or fish-house will do—anywhere out of the wind and weather.
4. Once in a warm spot, replace wet clothing with dry ones, or wrap victim in blankets, etc.
5. If victim is semi-conscious or worse, try to keep him awake. Keep the head tilted back to insure an open air passage. DO NOT GIVE AN UNCONSCIOUS PERSON LIQUIDS!
6. In all cases get the victim to competent medical attention as soon as possible.

HYPOTHERMIA CHART

Water Temp. (°F)	Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
32.5	Under 15 Min.	Under 15-45 Min.
32.5-40.0	15-30 Min.	39-90 Min.
40-50	30-60 Min.	1-3 Hr.
50-60	1-2 Hr.	1-6 Hr.
60-70	2-7 Hr.	2-40 Hr.
70-80	3-12 Hr.	3-Indef.
Over 80	Indef.	Indef.



Remember!
Ice
is Never Considered
Safe!
Notify the Water Patrol
of
Any Hazardous Areas
on the Lake
Call (952) 471-1300