



**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Stay safe, stay off the ice

Keep your dog on a
lead near frozen water



Protecting communities, working together, saving lives

Going onto frozen ponds, reservoirs, lakes and canals is dangerous and can have fatal results. It might be tempting to walk or play on frozen water, but the ice can easily break.

The temperature of the water is cold enough to take your breath away, which can easily lead to panic and drowning. The coldness can make your arms and legs numb, which means you can't control them and you won't be able to swim. It can also lead to hypothermia (a serious reduction in your body temperature), which can quickly become life-threatening. This happens to even the strongest swimmers.

Follow these simple steps to stay safe:

- **Never venture onto frozen water.** Even if the ice appears thick from the bank, it becomes thinner very quickly and can crack.
- **Adults should set a good example** by staying off the ice.
- **Never throw sticks or balls onto the ice for your dog** – keep them on a lead near frozen water. Many ice related drownings involve the attempted rescue of a dog.
- If a dog or other animal ventures onto the ice, or falls through it, **do not go onto the ice to rescue it** – you are likely to end up in the freezing water and unable to help the animal.
- **Alcohol and open water can be a lethal combination.** Keep well away from the edge of open water if you have been drinking alcohol.
- If you see a person in trouble in icy water – **stay on the bank, phone 999** and ask for fire if inland or the coastguard if by the sea. If you can reach the person with a branch, clothing tied together or other items then you could try to do so, but **stay firmly on the bank.**

For more information, visit:

manchesterfire.gov.uk

Reference: FSC ISL A

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