



Wilmot Fire Department  
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## **Wilmot Fire Department's Warning "No ice is safe ice"**

The Wilmot Fire Department is urging residents not to venture onto ice on local streams, rivers and ponds, as these are not monitored and may not be safe. According to the Grand River Conservation Authority website, "ice may appear to be safe but may not be thick enough to support your weight due to currents flowing underneath." There are many stormwater retention ponds in the area that may contain salt, other chemicals, changing water levels or have water flowing into them, causing inconsistent ice thickness. These unpredictable changes can cause ice conditions that may pose an immediate threat injury and life safety.

The Canadian Red Cross website recommends 15 cm thickness of ice for individuals walking or skating alone or 20 cm for large gatherings or games on the ice. Even if precautions are taken, such as drilling test holes to measure ice thickness, the ice may still be unpredictable due to daily changes in temperature, wind, precipitation and underwater currents. Jumping up and down on the ice is definitely **NOT** an effective way to test the safety of an ice surface.

Last month, an 11 year old boy fell through the ice on a stormwater retention pond in Milton and drowned. The following day in Woodstock, two youths had to be rescued after falling through the ice at Pittock Conservation Area. The dangers are real and the Township wants to prevent any tragedies from happening. Deaths caused by falling through ice and drowning are 100 percent preventable so please, "take our advice and stay off the ice". Parents, remind your children to stay clear of streams, ponds, and rivers. Pet owners are advised to keep your pets leashed and avoid the ice.

For more information, contact:

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