

Acton

Fire Department

Anita Arnum, Fire Chief

371 Main St.

Acton, MA 01720



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024

Media Contact: Kayla Rochon

Phone: 617-993-0003

Email: kayla@jgpr.net

Acton Fire Department Responds After Group of People Falls Through Thin Ice, Reminds Residents About Ice Safety Procedures



Ice is absolutely unsafe at this time and should not be traversed. (Courtesy Photo)

ACTON — Chief Anita Arnum reports that Acton Fire responded to and rescued five individuals who fell through thin, choppy ice Monday afternoon.

On Monday, Dec. 16, around 2:50 p.m., Acton Fire and Acton Police were dispatched to NARA Park after receiving 911 calls that multiple people had fallen through the ice.

On arrival, the crew observed that several people had emerged from the pond. Those remaining walked out of the water under their own power.

All five individuals — three 23-year-old men, a 23-year-old woman, and a 30-year-old man — were taken to local hospitals for cold exposure and treatment. They are all expected to fully recover.

It was determined that the group was in the area filming a video at the time.

The Acton Police Department also came to the scene as first responders, and the Westford Fire Department provided mutual aid ambulance service.

Icy waterways in Acton are, at this time, absolutely not safe for any human activities including walking, skating, fishing, etc.

Chief Arnum reminds residents of the following safety tips regarding ice and cold weather safety from [Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife](#):

- Before heading out, tell someone your plans and where you are going.
- Be Vigilant. No natural ice is 100 percent safe, and many factors can impact ice strength.
- Avoid walking on ice-bound rivers or other bodies of water, as currents can make ice thickness unpredictable and dangerous.
- Do not drive any kind of vehicle, including cars or snowmobiles, over the ice. The additional weight from the vehicle can cause the ice to crack faster.

Falling Through the Ice

- If you fall through the ice, do not panic.
- Turn back towards the direction you came from as the ice that is previously walked on should be the safest.
- If someone else falls through the ice, follow the actions: Preach-Reach-Throw-Go
 - Preach, calling 911 if possible and letting the victim know help is on the way
 - Reach, if it is safe to reach the victim from shore, extend a sturdy object for the victim to grab.
 - Throw, if it is safe to do so, toss the end of a rope or a flotation device to the victim.
 - Go, if a situation becomes too dangerous go find help as untrained rescuers can often become victims.

Acton Fire also reminds residents that in the event of an emergency, call 911.

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A message from the Acton Fire Department

John Guilfoil Public Relations, P.O. Box 22, Georgetown, MA 01833, United States, (617) 993-0003

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