



# LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

23505 SMITHTOWN ROAD, SUITE 120 • SHOREWOOD, MINNESOTA 55331 • TELEPHONE 952/745-0789 • FAX 952/745-9085

Gregory S. Nybeck, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 13, 2011

## LMCD NEWS- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Contact:**

Greg Nybeck, Executive Director  
(952) 745-0789 or [gnybeck@lmcd.org](mailto:gnybeck@lmcd.org)

## **Ice Safety on Lake Minnetonka**

With a wide range of winter activities starting soon on Lake Minnetonka, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) is encouraging the public's assistance to ensure that the activities are performed safely. Although the ice is never deemed 100% safe, there is no reason that ice-based activities cannot be safely enjoyed, as long as a few simple rules are followed.

### **Winter Speed Limits**

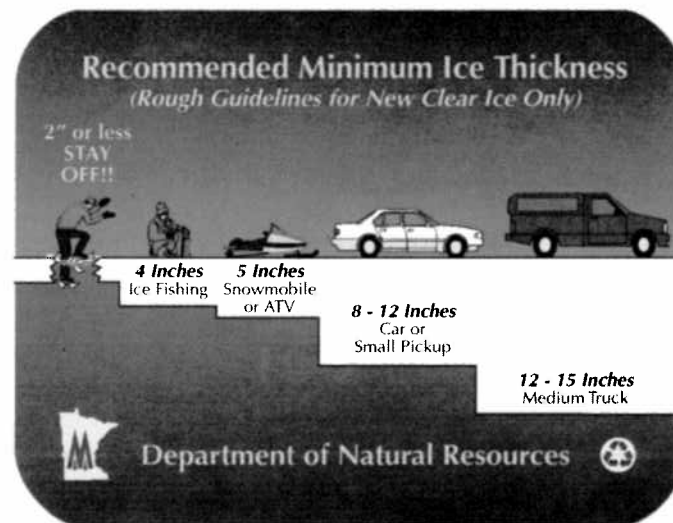
Winter speed limits are established for Lake Minnetonka by LMCD Code Section 3.11. A summary of these speed limits are as follows:

- The "shorezone" is that area of the ice within 150 feet from the entire shoreline of Lake Minnetonka. This area is reserved for non-motorized activities such as walking, skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and fishing. All motorized vehicles (snowmobile, ATV, cars, etc.) may traverse within the shorezone by the shortest direct route from the shoreline to open ice 150 feet beyond the shoreline, and return as necessary when leaving the Lake. **The speed limit for motorized vehicles within the shorezone (daytime and nighttime) is 25 M.P.H.**
- No motorized vehicle may be operated at a speed in excess of **25 M.P.H.** within 150 feet of any fisherman, fish house, pedestrian, skater/rink, sliding area, or in any area of the Lake where the operation would conflict with or endanger other persons or property. **The speed limit for such travel (daytime and nighttime) is 25 M.P.H.**
- **The speed limit for all of Black, Emerald, and Seton Lakes (daytime and nighttime) is 25 M.P.H.** This will be posted on signs at the three channels leading into these bays.
- **The daytime speed limit for all motorized vehicles outside of the shorezone, and greater than 150 feet from the non-motorized activities described above, is 50 M.P.H.**
- **The nighttime speed limit outside of the shorezone, and greater than 150 feet from the non-motorized activities described above, is 30 M.P.H., (except for snowmobiles – 50 M.P.H., as defined by State Statute).**

For a summary of the winter rules, the public is encouraged to obtain a Lake Minnetonka Winter Rules pamphlet. This pamphlet can be obtained from the LMCD (office or website), a drop box at most winter public accesses, or at the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol Office. Additionally, LMCD staff is always available to answer your questions. Please contact the LMCD office at (952) 745-0789 or visit their website at [www.lmcd.org](http://www.lmcd.org), under Rules and Regulations.

### **Ice Safety Tips**

Utilize ice safety tips recommended by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR). The following chart has been established for recommended minimum ice thickness before venturing out on a frozen lake or pond. Remember, the thicknesses detailed in this chart are merely guidelines for new, clear solid ice and that many factors, other than thickness, can cause the ice to be unsafe. Even if the ice seems to be thick enough, factors such as currents, wind, water chemistry, and wildlife can affect the relative safeness of the ice.



Copyright, 2011 MN DNR

There are a number of other ice safety tips recommended by the MN DNR. Some of these include:

- Check for known thin ice areas with a local resort or bait shop;
- Refrain from driving on the ice wherever possible;
- Don't "overdrive" your snowmobiles headlight; and
- Wear a life vest under your winter gear (or one of the new flotation snowmobile suits).

For more information on ice safety and current snowmobile and/or all terrain vehicle (ATV) regulations, visit the MN DNR's website at [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov).