Inspect and test the ice with a buddy before you go on ice!

Look at the colour of the ice, this is extremely important. There are three colours of ice and each means different things when it comes to the ice’s strength:

* Dull grey is a sure sign of unsafe ice. This grey colour means the ice is unsafe and that water is present. This ice will NOT support much weight. Grey is very common in the spring and in faster moving water all winter long.
* White opaque ice or snow ice is only half as strong as blue ice. It is formed by wet snow freezing on the top of existing ice. It can be very dangerous if this ice has formed on top of ice that is not completely frozen.
* Blue ice is clear and strong and the safest ice of all. The colour of ice deepens with increasing thickness because water is naturally turquoise blue. It forms when the temperature drops below minus 8 degrees Celsius.

Always measure the thickness of the ice in all spots on your route!

* Make a small hole in the ice using an ice auger, hatchet, drill etc. Then measure the thickness of the ice. Continue to check the ice thickness as you move around the lake. Remember: ice thickness is NOT uniform across most lakes.

BE SAFE!