Minimum Ice Thickness

Guideline for loads parked for more than 2 hours but less than 7 days on clear, good quality ice

> 10 inches (25 cm) snowmobiles and light ATV's and foot traffic LESS THAN 500 KG

2 inches

(5 cm)

KEEP OFF

6 inches

(15 cm)

ice fishing

16 inches (41 cm) mid-size cars and small trucks 1000-2000 KG

18 inches (46 cm) mid-size trucks 2000-3000 KG

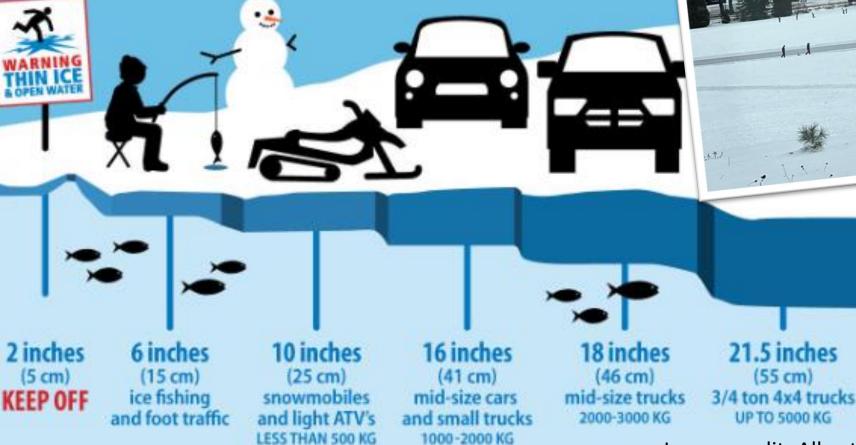
21.5 inches (55 cm) 3/4 ton 4x4 trucks UP TO 5000 KG

How would you determine the thickness of the ice on a frozen lake using only a ruler?

Image credit: Alberta Conservation Association

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Guideline for loads parked for more than 2 hours but less than 7 days on clear, good quality ice



Let your students test their survival skills!

One option: make a hole and drop the ruler down a hole until you get a waterline on the ruler, then subtract that from the Iceline. Or, tie the ruler to a string and hook it under the ice. Measure the length of the string needed to reach the ruler from the surface of the ice.

Image credit: Alberta Conservation Association