

# Beware of thin ice

## Karwoski is supervisor

LANSING Snowmobilers during to motor onto Michigan's newly frozen lakes and streams without first checking conditions may be treading on dangerous ice, cautions the Department of Natural Resources.

Last winter, six snowmobilers lost their lives in separate incidents after their machines plunged through thin ice, reports the DNR's Law Enforcement Division.

The first ice of the season is generally not as safe as it may look from the surface, because it may lack uniform thickness. Prolonged freezing temperatures are necessary before ice becomes thick and solid-enough to support humans and their machines.

Then is this point reached? At least five inches of ice is required to provide a minimum safety margin for snowmobiling.

That's just a general rule, of course, and there are such things as discolored snow and honeycombed ice to steer clear of during the winter season. In any case, snowmobilers are urged not to leave their personal safety to guess; they should carry—and use—augers or spuds to test the thickness of ice in areas where they plan to ride.

Even then, there is always the threat that some of them will run into weak spots and break through. What to do then?

Don't panic, are the DNR's first words of advice; your bulky clothes will support you for a few minutes. Extend your arms along the ice edge and kick your feet hard, easing yourself onto unbroken ice. When your hips are on solid ice, roll gently away from the hole. But don't stand up, yet. Ease yourself, spread-eagle fashion, further away from the hole, edging out at least 10 feet from the break-in point before attempting to stand.

If you see a fellow snowmobiler plunge through thin ice, try to remember the following points on rescue:

Park your machine a safe distance from the hole.

Tadeusz J. Karwoski, 34918 Munger, Livonia, has been named supervisor of production engineering at Detroit Diesel Allison's Diesel operations. Formerly Karwoski was senior project engineer with the General Motors division. Karwoski is a graduate of the General Motors institute and has been employed at Diesel Allison for 20 years.

Those applying for a social security number for the first time may be asked to prove their age, identity, and citizenship, according to Sam F. Test, manager of the Detroit Northwest Social Security Office, 17500 Lahser, Detroit, 48219.

The proof is required under a 1972 amendment to the social security law. "The requirement affects native United States citizens, naturalized citizens, and aliens," Test said.

People can apply for a social security number by writing or visiting any social security office. Application forms are available at social security offices and post offices.

"Age can usually be proved with a birth or baptismal certificate," Test said. "Identity can generally be proved with a driver's license, voter's card, or similar evidence—preferably something that carries your signature."

People born in the United States can usually establish citizenship with the same papers they use to prove their age and identity, he said.

The proof requirement is intended to help prevent people from obtaining more than one social security number or obtaining or using a social security card under a false identity, Test said.

A fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment of up to one year, or both may be imposed for fraudulent use of genuine or fake social security numbers to hide true identity or to get benefits from Federally funded programs.

"Your social security number is yours alone and remains the same for life," Test explained. "You build retirement, disability, survivors, and Medicare protection for yourself and your family by work and earnings credited to your social security number. Using more than one number could mean you're not getting full credit, which could adversely affect your social security payments in the future."

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