DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Ice-Related Fatalities 1976-2020

MN DNR – Boat and Water Safety
as of 4/30/2020

Minnesota Ice Fatality Summary Information (through the winter of 2019/20)

Fatalities by Winter Season (November through April)

Winter Season	Number of Fatalities	Winter Season	Number of Fatalities	Winter Season	Number of Fatalities	Winter Season	Number of Fatalities
1976/77	4	1977/78	3	1978/79	3	1979/80	16
1980/81	16	1981/82	6	1982/83	22	1983/84	2
1984/85	6	1985/86	4	1986/87	12	1987/88	7
1988/89	3	1989/90	8	1990/91	3	1991/92	4
1992/93	7	1993/94	5	1994/95	4	1995/96	9
1996/97	8	1997/98	7	1998/99	10	1999/00	4
2000/01	4	2001/02	5	2002/03	10	2003/04	3
2004/05	2	2005/06	2	2006/07	8	2007/08	3
2008/09	2	2009/10	1	2010/11	4	2011/12	4
2012/13	6	2013/14	3	2014/15	5	2015/16	0
2016/17	2	2017/18	6	2018/19	5	2019/20	2

Average Number of Deaths by Winter Season:

Average 1985/86 through 2019/20 (172 deaths/35 seasons) = 4.9 deaths per winter season.
Average 2010/11 through 2019/20 (37 deaths /10 seasons) = 3.7 deaths per winter season.
Average 2015/16 through 2019/20 (15 deaths/five seasons) = 3.0 deaths per winter season.

Mode of Travel – 2015/16 through 2019/20 (15 deaths in five seasons):

Snowmobile or ATV/UTV	13 (86.6%)
Other Motor Vehicle	1 (6.7%)
On Foot	1 (6.7%)
Total	15 (100%)

Deaths by County – 2015/16 through 2019/20 (15 deaths in five seasons)

County	Number of Fatalities
Aitkin	1
Beltrami	2
Carlton	1
Crow Wing	1
Grant	1
Hubbard	1

County	Number of Fatalities
Itasca	1
McLeod	1
Morrison	2
St. Louis	3
Stearns	1

Victim's Age – 2015/16 through 2019/20 (15 deaths in five seasons)

Age Range (Years)	Number of Victims
Less than 13	0
13 - 17	0
18 - 29	4
30 - 39	2
40 - 49	0
50 - 59	4
60 and older	5

Ice-Related Fatalities – 1976 - 2020

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
2020					
1.	2/22	Grant	Olson Lake	22	snowmobile on ice into open water
2019					
1.	11/23	Carlton	St. Louis River	34	walking on ice - fell through
2018					
6.	12/24	St. Louis	White Iron Lake	60	snowmobile through ice
5.	12/24	St. Louis	White Iron Lake	60	snowmobile through ice
4.	12/9	Morrison	Fish Trap Lake	71	ATV through ice (side-by-side)
3.	12/9	Morrison	Fish Trap Lake	68	ATV through ice (side-by-side)
2.	11/28	McLeod	Winsted Lake	52	snowmobile through ice
1.	4/23	St. Louis	Prairie Lake	82	UTV through ice
2017					
7.	12/16	Itasca	Rice Lake	52	ATV through ice
6.	12/15	Hubbard	Grace Lake	23	ATV through ice
5.	12/11	Crow Wing	Serpent Lake	34	snowmobile through ice
4.	11/25	Beltrami	Upper Red Lake	29	OHV through ice
3.	11/25	Beltrami	Upper Red Lake	28	OHV through ice
2.	3/10	Aitkin	Big Sandy Lake	59	ATV through ice
1.	2/28	Stearns	abandoned manure pit	56	skid loader through ice
2016	**No ice-related drownings or deaths occurred this year.**				
2015					
1.	2/1	Lincoln	Lake Benton	29	vehicle through ice
2.	2/1	Lincoln	Lake Benton	54	vehicle through ice

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
3.	3/3	Douglas	Lake Andrew	50	UTV through ice
4.	3/3	Douglas	Lake Andrew	2	UTV through ice (died 3/30/2015)
2014					
4.	11/26	Aitkin	Gun Lake	62	ATV through ice
3.	3/31	Dakota	Sunset Park Pond	43	broke through ice
2.	2/15	Polk	Maple Lake	37	found in water in ice fishing house
1.	1/22	Scott	Minnesota River	37	broke through ice
2013					
6.	2/16	Pine	St. Croix River	43	snowmobile through ice
5.	2/16	Washington	St. Croix River	22	snowmobile through ice
4.	2/3	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	87	car through ice
3.	2/3	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	31	car through ice
2.	2/1	Waseca	Lake Elysian	72	SUV through ice
1.	1/18	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	9 months	SUV through ice
2012					
4.	2/5	Traverse	Mud Lake	50	broke through ice
3.	1/26	Stearns	Rice Lake	65	ATV into open water
2.	1/14	Wright	Lake Charlotte	20	snowmobile into open water
1.	1/14	Wright	Lake Charlotte	19	snowmobile into open water
2011					
1.	4/10	Beltrami	Red Lake	59	snowmobile into open water
2010					
4.	12/30	Hubbard	Third Crow Wing Lake	18	snowmobile into open water
3.	12/4	Morrison	Lake Alexander	59	ATV through ice
2.	12/2	Le Sueur	Lake Washington	81	broke through ice
1.	2/5	Washington	St. Croix River	28	snowmobile into open water (recovered 8/12/2012)
2009	**No ice-related drownings or deaths occurred this year.**				
2008					
5.	12/9	Hennepin	Mississippi River	39	broke through ice
4.	12/7	Hennepin	Medicine Lake	56	broke through ice – skating
3.	2/3	Itasca	Mississippi River	24	fell into open water
3.	This death is due to hypothermia.				
2.	1/13	Cass	Leech Lake	36	truck through ice into shallow water
2.	This death is due to hypothermia.				
1.	1/11	Hennepin	Mississippi River	29	fell into open water
1.	This death is due to hypothermia.				
2007					
3.	1/21-22	Mille Lacs	Lake Mille Lacs	28	truck through ice
3.	This death is due to hypothermia.				
2.	1/15	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	56	snowmobile through ice
1.	1/14	Le Sueur	Lake Tetonka	18	snowmobile into open water
2006					
7.	12/17	Ramsey	Goose Lake	21	broke through ice
6.	12/10	Crow Wing	Round Lake	21	ATV through ice

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
5.	12/6	St. Louis	Burntside Lake	66	snowmobile through ice
4.	11/22	Beltrami	First Thunder's Lake	4	broke through ice
3.	11/22	Beltrami	First Thunder's Lake	2	broke through ice
2.	1/30	Otter Tail	Pelican Lake	25	snowmobile through ice
1.	1/19	Kandiyohi	Green Lake	20	snowmobile into open water
2005	**No ice-related drownings or deaths occurred this year.**				
2004					
4.	12/30	Grant	Pelican Lake	25	truck through ice
3.	12/18	St. Louis	Lake Vermilion	65	tracked vehicle through ice
2.	3/23	Cook	Lake Saganaga	38	snowmobile through ice
1.	3/2	Ramsey	Long Lake	46	snowmobile through ice
2003					
3.	11/18	Becker	Wettles Lake	19	attempted dog rescue
2.	1/23	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	16	car through ice
1.	1/23	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	17	car through ice
1.	This death is due to hypothermia.				
2002					
12.	12/29	Anoka	Coon Lake	21	ATV through ice
11.	12/27	Waseca	Clear Lake	85	broke through ice
10.	12/25	Jackson	Round Lake	63	ATV through ice
9.	12/20	Aitkin	Farm Island Lake	37	SUV through ice
8.	12/20	Aitkin	Farm Island Lake	49	SUV through ice
7.	11/19	Anoka	pond	2	broke through ice
6.	11/19	Anoka	pond	6	broke through ice
5.	11/19	Anoka	pond	5	broke through ice
4.	4/6	Cass	Leech Lake	49	truck through ice
3.	4/6	Cass	Leech Lake	45	truck through ice
2.	3/2	Crow Wing	North Long Lake	47	ATV through ice
1.	1/1	Mille Lacs	Mille Lacs Lake	80	snowmobile through ice
2001					
4.	12/15	Sherburne	Fremont Lake	18	snowmobile through ice
3.	4/5	Renville	ditch	8	broke through ice
2.	4/5	Renville	ditch	5	broke through ice
1.	3/24	Aitkin	Mississippi River	35	snowmobile through ice
2000					
3.	11/26	Anoka	Coon Creek	5	broke through ice
2.	2/26	Koochiching	Rainy Lake	7 months	truck through ice
1.	1/2	Big Stone	Big Stone Lake	64	snowmobile through ice
1999					
8.	12/31	St. Louis	Wild Rice Lake	51	motor vehicle through ice
7.	12/17	Hubbard	Fish Hook River	39	broke through ice
6.	3/9	Waseca	Lake Elysian	45	snowmobile into open water
5.	2/27	Cass	Lake Winnibigoshish	5	motor vehicle through ice
4.	2/27	Cass	Lake Winnibigoshish	30	motor vehicle through ice
3.	2/7	St. Louis	Cloquet River	39	snowmobile into open water

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
2.	2/5	Hubbard	Third Crow Wing Lake	33	snowmobile into open water
1.	1/15	Polk	Red River	21	snowmobile over dam into water
1998					
6.	12/31	Itasca	Lake Winnibigoshish	36	motor vehicle through ice
5.	12/31	Itasca	Lake Winnibigoshish	34	motor vehicle through ice
4.	11/18	Clearwater	Lake Six	2	broke through ice
3.	11/18	Clearwater	Lake Six	4	broke through ice
2.	3/25	Hennepin	Powderhorn Lake	8	broke through ice
1.	1/30	St. Louis	Colby Lake	23	snowmobile through ice
1997					
8.	12/28	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	19	snowmobile through ice
7.	12/28	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	18	snowmobile through ice
6.	12/13	Cass	Leech Lake	48	snowmobile through ice
5.	11/18	Lake	Wood Lake	63	broke through ice
4.	11/14	Rice	holding pond	31	snowmobile through ice
3.	4/14	Murray	Lake Shetek	57	attempted dog rescue (both drowned)
2.	4/12	Koochiching	Rainy Lake	81	ATV through ice
1.	4/5	Crow Wing	Big Mahnomen Lake	17	broke through ice
1996					
8.	12/30	Lake of the Woods	Lake of the Woods	65	modified (ice fishing) van through ice
7.	12/30	Lake of the Woods	Lake of the Woods	71	modified (ice fishing) van through ice
6.	12/30	Lake of the Woods	Lake of the Woods	68	modified (ice fishing) van through ice
5.	12/30	Lake of the Woods	Lake of the Woods	63	modified (ice fishing) van through ice
4.	12/22	St. Louis	Ash River	63	snowmobile groomer through ice
3.	4/13	St. Louis	Lake Vermilion	46	snowmobile into open water
2.	4/5	Kandiyohi	Golden Pond	68	broke through ice
1.	1/15	Carver	Lake Waconia	41	fell into ice fishing hole (spearing)
1995					
9.	12/28	Kanabec	farm pond	33	bobcat thru ice – clearing skating rink
8.	12/26	Jackson	Round Lake	38	truck through ice
7.	12/22	Otter Tail	Battle Lake	44	snowmobile through ice
6.	12/14	Goodhue	Spring Creek	5	broke through ice
5.	12/11	Dakota	Lake Marion	17	snowmobile through ice
4.	11/27	Meeker	Youngstrom Lake	27	snowmobile through ice
3.	3/8	Waseca	Lake Elysian	51	snowmobile through ice
2.	2/12	Hennepin	Mississippi River	26	ice jumping – fell into water
1.	1/19	St. Louis	Cloquet River	30	snowmobile into open water
1994					
5.	12/11	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	32	snowmobile through ice
4.	3/14	Redwood	Cottonwood River	2	broke through ice
3.	3/9	Lake of the Woods	Lake of the Woods	59	broke through ice
2.	2/6	Todd	Gurney Lake	65	truck through ice
1.	1/3	Mille Lacs	Mille Lacs Lake	30	truck through ice
1993					
3.	11/28	Chisago	Rush Lake	30	snowmobile through ice

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
2.	3/14	Benton	Little Rock Lake	22	snowmobile through ice in channel
1.	1/22	Chisago	Goose Lake	42	snowmobile through ice
1992					
6.	12/23	Chisago	Green Lake	11	SUV through ice
5.	12/19	Dakota	Crystal Lake	27	snowmobile through ice
4.	12/17	Isanti	Isanti Brook	60	broke through ice
3.	12/5	Anoka	Coon Lake	16	snowmobile through ice
2.	11/9	Sherburne	Rice Lake	18	broke through ice – deer hunting
1.	1/4	Pope	Lake Amelia	74	driving tractor on ice – broke through
1991					
3.	12/22	Blue Earth	Maple River	2	broke through ice
2.	12/1	Pope	Lake Minnewaska	24	snowmobile drove into open water
1.	11/8	Brown	Minnesota River	64	broke through ice – hunting
1990					
7.	12/15	Aitkin	Sandy River	50	snowmobile through ice
6.	12/12	Ramsey	holding pond	7	broke through ice
5.	12/3	Blue Earth	Loon Lake	34	broke through ice – fishing
4.	1/27	Crow Wing	Ossawinnamakee Lake	31	snowmobile through ice
3.	1/20	St. Louis	Wynne Lake	27	snowmobile through ice
2.	1/13	Le Sueur	Lake Washington	30	snowmobile through ice
1.	1/13	Crow Wing	Upper Whitefish Lake	27	truck through ice
1989					
7.	12/31	Wright	Clearwater Lake	36	van through ice
6.	12/16	Ramsey	White Bear Lake	29	car through ice
5.	12/15	Ramsey	White Bear Lake	25	truck through ice
4.	12/6	Lake	Fall Lake (Dam)	18	snowmobile through ice
3.	4/9	St. Louis	Midway River	4	broke through ice
2.	4/7	Pine	Snake River	2	broke through ice
1.	3/24	Isanti	Rum River	21	snowmobile into open water
1988					
2.	2/20	Lake	Fall Lake (Dam)	55	snowmobile through ice
1.	2/20	Lake	Fall Lake (Dam)	54	snowmobile through ice
1987					
14.	12/31	Cass	Gull Lake	21	snowmobile through ice
13.	12/27	Lake of the Woods	Lake of the Woods	59	tracked-vehicle through ice
12.	12/6	Washington	Sunfish Lake	47	broke through ice - cross-country skier
11.	12/3	Becker	Big Toad Lake	59	broke through ice - cross-country skier
10.	12/1	Blue Earth	outdoor pool	5	broke through ice
9.	3/21	Stearns	Horseshoe Lake	71	broke through ice
8.	3/15	Scott	Dog Patch Lake	14	broke through ice
7.	3/2	Mille Lacs	Mille Lacs Lake	14	broke through ice
6.	2/5	Goodhue	Cannon River	4	broke through ice
5.	1/29	Goodhue	pond	22	snowmobile through ice
4.	1/13	Washington	St. Croix River	30	3-wheeler through ice
3.	1/10	Hubbard	Second Crow Wing Lake	41	snowmobile through ice

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
2.	1/5	Kandiyohi	Diamond Lake	66	car through ice
1.	1/4	Pope	Lake Minnewaska	30	car through ice
1986					
6.	12/26	McLeod	Lake Marion	29	car through ice
5.	12/25	Rice	Circle Lake	16	car through ice
4.	12/25	Rice	Circle Lake	11	car through ice
3.	4/6	Hennepin	Mississippi River	3	broke through ice
2.	3/16	Lake	Lake Superior	23	snowmobile through ice
1.	1/19	Renville	Hawk Creek	2	broke through ice
1985					
2.	11/22	St. Louis	Pelican Lake	65	broke through ice
1.	1/6	Stearns	Mississippi River	4	broke through ice
1984					
7.	12/14	Hennepin	Lake Calhoun	unknown	broke through ice
6.	12/13	Pine	Pokegama Lake	51	snowmobile through ice
5.	12/8	Crow Wing	Upper Hay Lake	37	snowmobile through ice
4.	11/18	St. Louis	Bailey Lake	48	car through ice
3.	11/14	Big Stone	Minnesota River	21	broke through ice
2.	3/31	Kittson	gravel pit	20	crossing ice with loader
1.	2/18	Wright	Mississippi River	64	fell in ice fishing hole
1983					
13.	3/19	St. Louis	Lake Vermilion	3	snowmobile through ice
12.	3/19	St. Louis	Lake Vermilion	5	snowmobile through ice
11.	3/19	St. Louis	Lake Vermilion	32	snowmobile through ice
10.	3/12	Anoka	pond	2	broke through ice
9.	3/11	Hennepin	Shingle Creek	10	broke through ice
8.	3/10	Meeker	Big Swan Lake	71	snowmobile through ice
7.	3/10	Meeker	Big Swan Lake	74	snowmobile through ice
6.	2/28	Stearns	Sauk River	4	broke through ice
5.	1/28	Morrison	Sullivan Lake	29	snowmobile through ice
4.	1/15	Olmsted	Lake Zumbro	28	snowmobile through ice
3.	1/14	Waseca	Lake Elysian	30	snowmobile through ice
2.	1/8	Pennington	Red Lake River	76	broke through ice
1.	1/5	Beltrami	Lake Irvine	55	car through ice
1982					
9.	12/27	Becker	Cotton Lake	27	broke through ice
8.	12/22	Wright	Dean Lake	25	broke through ice
7.	12/20	Yellow Medicine	Tyson Lake	11	broke through ice
6.	12/15	St. Louis	Shagawa Lake	33	car through ice
5.	12/12	Winona	Mississippi River	6	broke through ice
4.	11/30	Itasca	Swan Lake	31	broke through ice
3.	11/30	Itasca	Swan Lake	26	broke through ice
2.	11/13	Hennepin	Minnehaha Creek	3	broke through ice
1.	11/5	Mahnomen	drainage pond	7	broke through ice
1981					

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
15.	12/23	Aitkin	Mille Lacs Lake	21	jeep through ice
14.	12/20	Aitkin	Mille Lacs Lake	66	snowmobile through ice
13.	12/20	Aitkin	Mille Lacs Lake	68	snowmobile through ice
12.	12/18	St. Louis	Lake Namakan	58	snowmobile through ice
11.	12/18	St. Louis	Lake Namakan	58	snowmobile through ice
10.	12/5	Crow Wing	Platte Lake	37	snowmobile through ice
9.	3/28	Cass	Lake Inguadona	15	snowmobile through ice
8.	3/28	Cass	Lake Inguadona	48	snowmobile through ice
7.	2/16	Le Sueur	Gorman Lake	38	truck through ice
6.	2/16	Le Sueur	Gorman Lake	42	truck through ice
5.	2/2	Martin	Lake George	14	snowmobile through ice
4.	2/2	Winona	Mississippi River	37	car through ice
3.	1/30	Meeker	Lake Washington	64	van through ice
2.	1/24	Stearns	Lake Francis	36	truck through ice
1.	1/13	Goodhue	Lake Pepin	78	car through ice
1980					
12.	12/26	Grant	Pomme De Terre Lake	19	car through ice
11.	12/21	Benton	Little Rock Lake	59	car through ice
10.	12/7	Crow Wing	Whitefish Lake	70	broke through ice
9.	12/6	Douglas	Lake Brophy	22	snowmobile through ice
8.	12/7	Aitkin	Lake Minnewawa	22	snowmobile through ice
7.	11/29	Hennepin	Powderhorn Lake	5	broke through ice
6.	11/12	Itasca	Prairie Lake	6	broke through ice
5.	3/28	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	71	broke through ice/heart attack
4.	2/16	Crow Wing	Cross Lake	53	snowmobile through ice
3.	2/6	Murray	Lake Shetek	24	snowmobile through ice
2.	1/7	Anoka	Coon Lake	17	snowmobile through ice
1.	1/1	Meeker	Collinwood Lake	32	car through ice
1979					
12.	12/27	Washington	Big Carnelian	18	car through ice
11.	12/25	Pope	Lake Ben	50	walking across lake
10.	12/23	Wright	Dog Lake	21	driving on ice
9.	12/23	Todd	Guernsey Lake	31	car through ice
8.	12/18	Scott	Prior Lake	19	truck through ice
7.	12/16	Hennepin	Lake Minnetonka	11	broke through ice – skating
6.	12/3	Itasca	Big Splithand Lake	8	truck through ice
5.	12/1	Otter Tail	Lake Lizzie	69	snowmobile through ice
4.	12/1	Itasca	Reiley Lake	20	snowmobile through ice
3.	11/18	Traverse	Traverse Lake	41	fell into ice fishing hole
2.	11/15	Murray	hole/trash burned	2	fell in hole/ice covered
1.	2/14	Hennepin	Powderhorn Lake	9	fell from ice to open water
1978					
3.	11/30	Cass	Big Thunder Lake	19	snowmobile through ice
2.	11/30	Cass	Big Thunder Lake	25	snowmobile through ice
1.	1/7	Wright	Clearwater Lake	60	snowmobile through ice

YEAR AND NUMBER	DATE	COUNTY	WATER BODY	AGE	ACCIDENT TYPE
1977					
6.	11/21	Wilkin	Otter Tail River	7	broke through ice
5.	11/21	Stevens	Lake Crystal	10	broke through ice
4.	4/3	Koochiching	gravel pit	6	broke through ice
3.	2/20	Itasca	Mississippi River	6	broke through ice
2.	2/10	Nobles	Lake Okabena	67	broke through ice – fishing
1.	2/10	Nobles	Lake Okabena	15	broke through ice – fishing
1976					
6.	4/3	Cook	McFarland Lake	39	snowmobile through ice
5.	4/3	Aitkin	Big Sandy Lake	7	snowmobile through ice
4.	4/3	Aitkin	Big Sandy Lake	37	snowmobile through ice
3.	3/17	Murray	Lime Creek	6	broke through ice
2.	1/22	St. Louis	Miller Creek	5	toboggan through ice
1.	1/22	St. Louis	Miller Creek	6	toboggan through ice