

## Ice Shelters - what you need to know

The following are some common questions Conservation Officers receive from ice anglers:

### New Laws/Requirements – What is a portable shelter?

- Portable shelter is now defined as a structure that is placed on the ice to provide shelter and is readily collapsible, folds, or disassembles for transport.
- Portable shelters, like the canvas/nylon collapsible and sled-style shelters, do not need to be licensed when they are occupied/attended.
- Shelters that do not meet the definition of a portable shelter, such as camper-type shelters, need to be licensed.

### Licensing – What shelters need to be licensed?

- Shelters that are placed on the ice to provide shelter that are NOT defined as portable shelters need to be licensed.
- If a person is not within 200 feet of a portable shelter, the portable shelter needs to be licensed.
- In addition, any portable shelter that is left unattended any time between midnight and an hour before sunrise needs to be licensed.
- Camper-type shelters are not considered portable shelters and will need to be licensed.

### Display of License and Owner Info – What needs to be displayed?

- If a shelter needs to be licensed, the license needs to be displayed so it is readily visible from the exterior of the shelter.
- In addition, if a shelter needs to be licensed, the owner identification information needs to be readily visible from the exterior of the shelter and displayed with characters at least two inches high.
- Options for displaying the owner identification information include (you can pick one):
  - The owner's name and complete address
  - The owner's driver's license number
  - The MDNR# license identification number of the shelter license issued to the owner

**HELPFUL HINT:** Be careful of laminating the shelter license for display. Heat activated laminators can turn the license nearly completely black because the license paper is a heat-activated paper/ink system. Likewise, extended exposure to other sources of heat or sun could render the license illegible. You can purchase a duplicate license if your shelter license is damaged or destroyed.

### Deadlines – When does my shelter need to be off the ice?

- See page 70 of the Fishing Regulations booklet for detailed information on removal deadlines.
- Depending on the weather and ice conditions, it may be necessary to remove your shelter from the ice before these published deadlines.

## Litter and Trash

- Clean up after yourself, take trash off the lake/ice with you.
- It is unlawful to leave litter or other trash, or parts from your shelter, on the ice.

## Safety

- Ice is never 100 percent safe – check strength frequently.
- You can't judge ice conditions by appearance or thickness alone – many factors combine to determine its strength.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly and can vary greatly even on the same body of water.
- Beware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning from heaters. Use heaters properly with plenty of ventilation, follow manufacturer's installation directions.
- See pages 68 and 69 of the Fishing Regulations booklet for more detailed recommendations

## [Fishing Regulations](#)

Information Center: 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367)