



Be Winter Safe

Nalcor Energy and Hydro urging residents to use caution around ice and waterways.

January 21, 2011 - During Newfoundland and Labrador's winter season, Nalcor Energy and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro recommend avoiding snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, skating, walking or ice fishing on rivers or reservoirs near dams and generating stations. Ice in these areas may be thin due to the current or where changing water levels have created gaps under the ice.

"Winter recreational activities can be an enjoyable experience for those who love the outdoors, provided safety precautions are observed," said John Hollohan, Manager of Safety and Health, Nalcor Energy. "Snowmobilers should always practice safe riding and know how to spot and avoid potential hazards. They should avoid areas around hydroelectric facilities, as fluctuating water levels and currents may result in unstable ice conditions."

In particular, Nalcor advises the public to use extreme caution when snowmobiling on Badger Lake this winter. Sections of Badger Lake which normally freeze currently have open water and snowmobiling is not safe in these areas. "If using Badger Lake for recreational activities, ensure there is sufficient ice thickness in the areas being used, and avoid all areas near open water," says Hollohan. "Just because the ice is thick in one spot, does not mean it will be in all areas."

It's important to stay out of all restricted areas, and to be especially careful around hydroelectric facilities. "Everyone who participates in winter recreational activities needs to be aware of the associated dangers, especially over bodies of water," said Hollohan. "We want people to enjoy their sport and encourage them to beware of the associated hazards."

For additional snowmobile and winter recreation safety tips, visit HydroSafety.ca.



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