



# Wintertime Pond Safety

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**B**rambleton has a number of ponds and water features throughout the community. While they bring a certain charm and beauty to the community, residents need to be safe when they are near these ponds and water features, especially during the winter. Please educate your families on winter pond safety and observe the following



safety practices when near a neighborhood pond or other body of water this winter:

- Frozen ponds should never be used for recreational purposes. **Do not skate, play, ride, or step foot on a frozen pond.**
- If you observe someone on one of Brambleton's frozen ponds, please take initiative and remind them of hazards and prohibited use of the pond. Immediate action is necessary to prevent a hazard from becoming a tragedy.
- If the individual(s) remain on the frozen pond, please report the incident to the proper authorities depending upon the day and time. Report incidents to the BCA Management Office during business hours (M-F, 9 AM to 5 PM) or the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office after business hours, on weekends, and on holidays at 703-777-1021.
- If a person, a pet, or personal item accidentally falls through the ice, **do not**

try to recover them; you could become a victim too.

- If someone does fall through the ice and you are alone, instruct the victim to **keep calm** while you call 9-1-1 immediately. Hypothermia can start immediately and can cause exhaustion or unconsciousness in only a few minutes.
- It is important to let the rescue crew know the victim's age, circumstances of the incident, time it occurred, and where the victim was last seen. This information will help the rescuers assess the type of rescue needed.
- If you are with other people, make sure that someone stays on the shore next to the victim while another person calls 9-1-1. Try to keep an ongoing conversation with the victim in order to keep them calm and to aid in the rescue.
- Of course, the best safety message we can offer is to **stay away from frozen ponds.** ❄️