

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK POLICE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS**

SUFFOLK, VA (February 18, 2015) The recent Winter weather has brought snow and ice to our area. The continuing below freezing temperatures has led to ice forming on ponds, lakes, and retention ponds. Suffolk Police advise that it is dangerous to try to venture out onto what appears to be a frozen body of water as the ice is not thick enough to support the weight of even a small child. Parents and care providers are advised to warn their children not to play on or near the ice.

The Hampton Roads area has already seen instances where children have fallen through the ice creating a very dangerous situation due to the temperature of the water. The temperatures we have experienced have not been sustained long enough to create the minimum clear ice thickness recommended to permit ice sports or recreation.

Ice-related drowning incidents commonly involve situations where children have been playing on the ice, children slipped on ice-covered banks and fell into the water, adults attempted to rescue children, or adults attempted to rescue a pet who fell through the ice. If someone is observed falling through the ice, call 911 immediately. Do not

attempt to go onto the ice to attempt a rescue as you may become a victim as well. You should try to reach the victim with a rope, rolled blanket, pole or other object until rescue crews arrive.

Police also want to alert the public of the risk of leaving an unattended car running while warming up the vehicle. Vehicle thieves can see this as an opportunity to take your vehicle.

Suffolk Police also advise motorists to take extra precautions while traveling due to winter precipitation and the threat of re-icing with oncoming frigid temperatures. Motorists are advised to slow down, drive smoothly, do not tailgate, and be extra vigilant while operating a motor vehicle.

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