



**WEST MERCIA
POLICE**

Stay Safe Around Frozen Lakes This Winter

Stay Safe Around Frozen Lakes This Winter

As the cold weather sets in, many lakes and ponds may appear frozen and tempting to walk or play on. Please make sure your children understand the dangers and never attempt to go onto the ice. It may look solid, but it can break without warning.

This last week we have received a few calls from members of the public regarding young children playing on the lakes, especially Arrow Valley and Batchley Pool. We have increased patrols in the area and are speaking with children regarding the dangers of the area.

Key Dangers of Walking or Playing on Frozen Lakes:

- **Thin Ice:** Even if it looks thick, ice can vary in strength and break suddenly.
- **Cold Water Shock:** Falling into freezing water can cause immediate shock, making it hard to breathe or swim.
- **Hypothermia:** Prolonged exposure to cold water can quickly lead to life-threatening hypothermia.
- **Hidden Currents:** Lakes and rivers often have currents under the ice, making rescue extremely difficult.
- **Risk to Rescuers:** Anyone trying to help could also fall through, doubling the danger.

Please remind your children: **Stay off the ice – it's not worth the risk.**

If you see someone in trouble, **call 999 immediately** and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service. Do not attempt to go onto the ice yourself.

Stay safe and enjoy winter responsibly.