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Shenango River Lake

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Shenango Lake Ice Conditions & Fishing

[SHENANGO RIVER LAKE](#) – Fluctuating temperatures have created ice conditions on Shenango River Lake that are extremely variable and potentially dangerous. If you are unsure about the strength of the ice, stay off it! A minimum of four inches of clear, solid ice is necessary to support the weight of one person. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' staff at Shenango reminds anyone venturing onto the ice to wear a life jacket and layers of clothing (such as wool and polypropylene), and to carry rope. Always have a companion ready to provide help should the need arise. Additional information on ice safety may be obtained by calling the Shenango Ranger Station at 724-646-1124.

Shenango Lake was created primarily for flood control. As with any reservoir of this type, the pool level fluctuates even when the surface is frozen. This presents unique hazards not found on a lake with a stationary pool level. For example, when the pool rises the ice is lifted and open water appears along the shoreline. This open water may freeze quickly, but will be very thin and weak. Movement of the ice, whether up, down or sideways, will result in weakening the ice cover. Shoreline rocks will also collect the sun's energy and eventually melt nearby ice. Basically, shoreline ice is unstable.

Another concern to be mindful of is that water does not freeze uniformly. There are several reasons why this occurs. Underground springs and tributary streams are the most common causes of this problem. To avoid potential thin ice, maintain a safe distance from the shoreline and from the mouths of tributary streams.

Four inches of clear, solid ice is the minimum amount required for a lone angler; seven inches is necessary for group activities. Do not attempt to walk on a lake covered with milky colored decaying ice. Also, weak ice always exists around exposed stumps, logs, rocks or other objects.

Personal protective clothing and equipment are essential whenever venturing out onto the ice. A life jacket or PFD (Personal Floatation Device) is the single most important piece of equipment you should wear. Layers of clothing, such as wool, polypropylene, and high tech garments, are highly recommended over a single heavy layer. Not only will the layers prove to be warmer, they are also more buoyant. Ice awls, ice staffs and rope should be taken along for emergency situations. Ice awls are miniature ice picks that can be used by victims to help pull themselves out of the water and onto solid ice. An ice staff can be used for self-rescue, rescuing others and checking ice conditions. The rope can be used as a rescue line.

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At Shenango Lake, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has installed ice ladders at the Route 846 Access Area, Hartford Road Access Area, the Golden Run Wildlife Area, Parkers Landing Access Area and the Pennsylvania Game Commission Propagation Area. The ladders are to be used as rescue devices. The ladder is pushed out to the victim who has fallen through the ice and rescuers pull the ladder to a safe area.

Take time to learn more about ice and ice safety to decrease your risk.

Daily lake conditions and information can be heard by calling the Shenango Lake 24-hour recorded message at 724-962-4384.

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