

EMERALD LAKES VILLAGE  
Homeowners Association  
P.O. Box 113, Troy, MI 48099

**Policy Letter Regarding: WATER EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

ELV Policy **#016** updated and approved **March 4, 2014**

This letter outlines a **response plan for water emergencies** and offers suggestions for **ice safety and rescue techniques**.

**WATER EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

- 1) Emerald Lakes Village will voluntarily supply information about emergency response to users at the beach lots via the newsletter and on the webpage, but specifically does not assume any responsibility for individuals who swim at their own risk.
- 2) The warnings and notifications shall include the following:
  - a) In the case of a perceived water related emergency:
    - (1) **First dial 911**, if possible, and then:
    - (2) **Reach** – from shore to a distressed swimmer
    - (3) **Throw** – a line with an appropriate flotation device to a distressed swimmer
    - (4) **Row** – to distressed swimmer with an able bodied assistant
    - (5) **Go** – Swim to the aid of a distressed swimmer only as a last resort and with the knowledge that a fear stricken person may become combative and put your life at risk even if you are a proficient swimmer
- 3) The City of Troy Fire Department has a station located adjacent to Emerald Lakes Village. The Fire Department's Tactical Plan for Water Rescue is attached as an addendum to this Water Emergency Response Policy.

**ICE SAFETY** – The following information is also located in the ELV Directory on Page 4.

- 1) No ice is 100% safe. Never go on the ice alone.
- 2) You cannot judge the strength of ice by its appearance, age, thickness, the temperature, or whether the ice is covered with snow.
- 3) Snow insulates ice and may weaken it.
- 4) Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. **This is why you must stay away from the lake drains.**
- 5) Ice seldom freezes uniformly. Check ice thickness with a cordless drill, auger or ice spud.
- 6) After ice forms solidly, 4" thick is safe for general use. Don't guess, measure it. White ice is only half as strong as clear ice so white ice should be 8" thick for safety's sake.
- 7) Carry safety items such as a whistle, cell phone, and/or 2 screwdrivers tied to the ends of a rope out onto the ice with you.

- 8) If you hear ice crack, spread out, and immediately lie down to distribute weight. Then crawl back to safer ice.
- 9) If you fall through the ice, do not panic. Call out for help, turn and face the direction you came from, and kick your feet while getting hands and arms up onto safer ice. Use the screwdrivers to help pull yourself out. Once out, lie flat and roll away from the hole.
- 10) If someone falls through the ice; call 911 and extend a pole, branch, rope or a rope with a life ring to the victim.

**RESCUE TECHNIQUES** – As taken from Page 4 of the ELV Directory

## RESCUE TECHNIQUES

### SELF RESCUE

Spread your weight



Use a Long Support



### THIN ICE RESCUE

Lay Down and Reach



These are suggestions only. You are entering the ice at your own risk.