

Department of Fire Building and Emergency Services

City of Olean

Media Release

Date: January 11, 2018

Contact: Chief Robert Bell

Subject: River Ice Incidents

It has been noticed, especially in the last two weeks, that several adults and juveniles have been seen on the ice near the confluence of the Olean Creek and Allegheny River near Bradner's Stadium and Adam's Street. The City of Olean Fire Department urges everyone to avoid the practice of crossing any part of the Allegheny River and Olean Creek that runs through the City of Olean. The fact is that this is moving water under the ice which leads to varying thickness. This varying thickness results in instability of formed ice which promotes rapidly changing and unsafe ice conditions. These poor ice conditions are worsened by the recent warming that creates fluctuating water levels, leading to further ice instability.

If you witness someone go through the ice please call 911 and **do not go onto the ice to attempt rescue**, as you will likely become a victim yourself. It is very important to give the dispatcher the best known location of you and the victim(s) so rescue units can access the closest area as quickly as possible. If you are able to, maintain contact with the victim and keep eyes on the victim as long as you are not endangering yourself, this information is critical for the responding rescue units.