

CITY OF PATERSON
DIVISION OF OEM

TROY M AYERS
Coordinator



FIRE HEADQUARTERS
300 McBride AVENUE
PATERSON, NJ 07501
PHONE: (973) 321-1410

PatersonOEM@patersonnj.gov

ANDRÉ SAYEGH
MAYOR

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY: STAY OFF RIVER ICE

With recent cold snaps causing rivers and waterways to freeze, authorities are issuing urgent warnings: **Do not walk, skate, or drive on the Passaic River.**

- **Appearances are Deceiving:** Ice on moving water (rivers, streams, creeks) is never safe, regardless of how solid it looks.
- **Constant Danger:** River currents and changing water levels make ice thickness inconsistent, unpredictable, and much weaker than ice on ponds.
- **Rapid Hypothermia:** Falling through the ice into freezing, flowing water can lead to fatal hypothermia within minutes.
- **Rescue Risks:** If you fall in, the current can drag you under the ice, making rescue nearly impossible. It also puts first responders in extreme danger.

Key Rules for Safety:

- **Stay off:** Do not walk on the Passaic River ice at any time.
- **Pets & Kids:** Keep children and pets away from the edge of frozen waterways.
- **No Exceptions:** Even if others are on the ice, it does not mean it is safe.
- **What to do:** If you see someone in danger, **call 911 immediately** and do not go out onto the ice yourself.

Please share this message to keep your community safe.