Trespassers on thin ice with Aquarion

Tempted to try ice fishing, walking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing or other types of winter recreation at your local reservoir? Aquarion Water Company officials warn against such activities.

“We’ve seen an increase in winter activities around our reservoirs,” said Stephen C. Stamos, Aquarion’s manager of natural resources, “and we want to remind residents that, not only is it illegal to be on an Aquarion reservoir, it also is extremely dangerous.

“Reservoirs are for water supply, not trespassing,” Stamos said. “That may sound harsh, but we don’t want any tragedies.

“Though a reservoir might seem to be an ideal place for winter recreation, many factors make trespassing ill-advised, not the least of which is the fact that it can lead to arrest,” he said. “It also can be fatal, because the ice thickness is unreliable. The ice may seem capable of supporting a person’s weight, but that appearance is deceptive because of shifting water levels and thermal undercurrents.”

Noting that every community offers opportunities for winter fun, Stamos said the company strongly advises residents to avoid the danger, fines and possible arrest. Instead, residents can contact their local Parks and Recreation Department for alternative activities.

Aquarion does welcome the public on its Saugatuck and Aspetuck Valley trails, which are open for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing year-round for those who hold a valid permit. To obtain a permit, call Aquarion’s Watershed & Environmental Management Office at (203) 452-3511. For more information about Aquarion’s public access policies, go to its website at www.aquarion.com.

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