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Ice fishing opens at three New Mexico State Parks

Brave the cold and reel in your catch!

SANTA FE, NM – New Mexico State Parks announces the official opening of ice fishing season at Eagle Nest Lake, Fenton Lake, and Sugarite Canyon State Parks. Anglers eager to bundle up and cast a line can now enjoy this winter tradition—while taking precautions to stay safe on the ice.

“We welcome ice fishing enthusiasts to enjoy this winter fishing season. However, we ask that they take precautions to ensure that their outings are safe and enjoyable,” said **Toby Velasquez**, director for New Mexico State Parks.

Ice Fishing Guidelines & Safety Tips

- Foot traffic only – Motorized vehicles are not permitted on the ice.
- Ice fishing is at your own risk.
- Check conditions before you go — visit the [Park Alerts](#) for the latest ice conditions.
- Use caution and avoid marked hazards, including pressure ridges, and stay at least 50 yards away from cones or barrels marking danger zones.
- Report any hazards you encounter to park staff so they can issue additional warnings, if necessary.
- Don't fish alone. Inform someone of your intended fishing destination and expected return time.
- Always wear a life jacket (personal flotation device) when on the ice.
- Be prepared for weather conditions. Dress in layers, including thermal underwear, fleece or wool, and windproof, waterproof outerwear, especially for your feet, hands, and head.
- Keep fishing holes smaller than eight inches in diameter to reduce safety hazards for others.

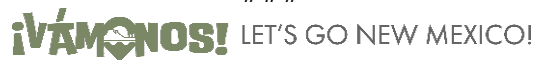
- Stay cautious around known weak ice areas such as feeder streams, springs, or cracks. Ice spikes are recommended for self-rescue.
- Distribute weight and fishing holes to avoid overcrowding in one area.

Given the unseasonably warm temperatures, conditions may change quickly. Contact park staff or check the [Park Alerts](#) section on the EMNRD website for up-to-date info.

- Eagle Nest Lake State Park: (575) 377-1594
- Fenton Lake State Park: (575) 829-3630
- Sugarite Canyon State Park (Lake Maloya and Lake Alice): (575) 445-5607

For information on all 35 of your New Mexico State Parks, visit emnrd.nm.gov/spd and click on [Find a Park](#). To make camping reservations, visit reserveamerica.com.

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