Safety tip of the week: spring melt

Spring has been slow in coming, but it's now on the way.

The melting of snow and spring rains can quickly swell local rivers and streams. Parents should supervise their children and keep them away from streams and ditches.

Children are naturally drawn to water. Playing around fast moving streams or standing water in ditches can be hazardous. The water is extremely cold, and it takes just minutes for hypothermia to set in. Weighed down by coats and boots, children can easily drown in just a few inches of water.

The weather forecast is calling for rain and higher temperatures over the next few weeks. Ice on local waterways will melt and become unstable. Use caution when travelling on ice covered water and never allow your children onto ice unsupervised.

Remind your children of the dangers of playing near open water and the need for common sense. Supervise your kids at play, and let's not have a tragedy.