



By Sheri Hink-Wagner
The Wauneta Breeze

Safety is always a concern for fishermen and waterfowl hunters, especially when activities take them out on the ice of a lake that may be unpredictable.

Wauneta EMS is working to ensure the safety of ice enthusiasts by placing 17 rescue throw bags at Enders and Swanson Lakes.

The rescue throw bags allow a bystander to rescue someone who fell through the ice without needing to get close to the break in the ice.

The rescuer is able to reach inside the bag, hang onto the rope inside and throw the weighted bag to an individual who fell through the ice, up to 75 feet away.

The rescue bags as well as posts and boxes to display the bags were purchased by the Wauneta EMS because they feel safety on the ice is important.

“The bags are there for everyone’s safety,” explains Wauneta EMS member Troy Skelton.

Seven rescue throw bags will be placed at Swanson Lake near Trenton and 10 bags will be placed at Enders Lake near Enders.

Skelton said the squad placed rescue throw bags at Enders Lake approximately six years ago, but that some of the bags have been stolen or vandalized. The group decided to purchase additional bags to make sure potential rescuers have the equipment they need to safely help someone who falls through the ice.

Skelton added it would be helpful if those who see the bags at the lake help “keep an eye on them” to make sure they are not stolen or vandalized.

The bags will be put into small boxes, which will be attached to posts at various locations surrounding the lakes. Staff at both lakes will pick up the rescue packs at the end of the season, store them and put them back out again in future years.

“We appreciate the partnership with Taylor Dixon at Swanson Lake and staff members at Enders Lake,” said Skelton.

Wauneta EMS members include Skelton, Leann Hunt, Malisa Klentz, Gary Hunt, Lana Skelton and Luann Rector.