

Cracks (In the ice)

Aajuraq (Singular form)

Cracks in the ice are dangerous and should be respected as such. Ice cracks when it is not stable or when the ice moves. Cracks in the ice are common during spring. Cracks are part of Inuit daily lives in the spring, especially when people are traveling or camping. Cracks are very dangerous as they are opening in the sea, and the water is usually deep. Cracks are controlled by the weather, ice conditions, current, wind, snow and rain. Ice crack could be a centimeter or as wide as 50 meters. There may be a "Bridge", numerous bridges to cross or none at all. These "bridges" are places where the cracks are not completely cracked off and these are safe places to cross. Another potential area to cross is close to the beach where the crack has ended or started.

A person would easily lose a snowmobile, all their belongings or their lives if one should not cross a crack safely. Numerous people have gotten seriously hurt when they didn't cross a crack properly. Some people have fallen right into the water when they were accidentally dumped by their driver to avoid the crack. The snowmobile not only has to cross, the sled being led by the snowmobile has to cross safely as well, along with the occupants. Every year, someone gets hurt attempting to cross a crack. Experienced or not, ice cracks are dangerous for everyone. Ice cracks are to be respected by everyone.

I'm only writing about the some of the negative effects of ice cracks for safety reasons. Ice cracks have positive purposes as well. Basking seals occupy the cracks...Animals come up to breathe on the cracks, birds hunt, and cracks are great to rest by to have tea, or a meal. That's another story.

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