



Death Valley National Park

Hurricane Hilary – DVP Incident

Situation Update – Thursday, September 21, 2023

Updates

- Hurricane Hilary was one month and one day ago. There are still temporary lakes at Badwater, Saline Valley, Panamint Valley, Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes, and the Racetrack.
- The nonpotable water line to The Oasis has been repaired. This means there is no longer water flowing across CA-190 just below the Inn.
- A sewer-jetting contract has been awarded, which will clear flood debris from sewer lines.
- NPS roads crew are working on Dantes View, campgrounds, and Artists Drive.
- The VIPER contract dozer has finished clearing Warm Springs Road to (Grantham) Warm Springs Camp, and slowly crawled its way back to where a transport trailer can pick it up and move it to a new work location. They are taking today off, and will start working on either Echo Canyon or Hole in the Wall Road tomorrow.
- One rental dozer is arriving on Monday. Having two dozers working together is three times faster than one (not twice) because the single one won't have to backtrack.
- NPS fire engine responded to smoke in an employee residence on 9/19. Fortunately, it was only the swamp cooler motor.
- We have been getting great support from other NPS units! 49 people have assisted and are now returned to their home units, 24 are assigned to the incident currently, and 24 are scheduled to arrive between 9/22 and 10/9.



Aerial photo of water still standing in road cut on north end of West Side Road on 9/20.

Current Status

- **Death Valley National Park is fully closed.** Partial reopening tentatively scheduled for 10/15 from Lone Pine entrance only.
- **Stovepipe Wells:** Rooms available for incident personnel.
- **Panamint Springs:** Retail and restaurant are closed. Gas is still available, only pay at the pumps.
- **The Oasis at Death Valley:** EDR is open. Rooms available for incident personnel.

Current Status – Roads

- **CA-190:**
 - CLOSED. Scheduled to reopen from Lone Pine to Furnace Creek on October 15. Date for Furnace Creek to Death Valley Junction is unknown.
 - Administrative access is allowed only for residents, employees, and deliveries. Bring ID to show proof of living in closed area. The contractor is staffing the closures on either end of CA-190, 6 am to 6 pm. After hours there is a combination lock.
- **Campgrounds:**
 - Stovepipe Wells – ready to open
 - Furnace Creek – only still needs road sweeper and some hand-tool work
 - Sunset Campground – ready to open
 - Texas Springs Campground – working on it
- **NPS paved roads:**
 - **Temporary repairs by contract:** Federal Highway Administration is in contract negotiations for temporary repairs, which will include removing debris, cutting out damaged asphalt, filling collapsed road sections and shoulders, and opening with lowered speed and warning signs for dirt patches. The contract is still being negotiated, but work is likely to start around Oct. 8 or 15. The contractor will work on roads in the following order:
 1. Mud Canyon/Daylight Pass Road (Beatty entrance),
 2. south end of Badwater Road to CA-178/CA-127 (Shoshone entrance), and
 3. (maybe) North Highway/Ubehebe Crater.
 - **Permanent repairs by contract:** Federal Highway Administration engineers will come out Oct. 10-12 to prepare a scope of work for full repairs, which includes repaving and armoring some damaged areas to protect from future floods. That contract would be put out to bid in December, with likely start in Feb. or March. Work will include: Mud Canyon/Daylight Pass, Badwater Road, North Highway/Ubehebe Crater, Beatty Cut Off, Emigrant Canyon, and Harmony Borax Trail.
- **Badwater area roads:**
 - **Badwater:** MP 0-17 is ready to open to public. MP 17 to CA-178 will be done by contractor, likely in November.
 - **Golden Canyon parking lot:** ready to open to public.
 - **Devils Golf Course:** ready to open to public.
 - **Natural Bridge:** ready to open to public
 - **Artists Drive:** Work in progress.
- **Daylight Pass/Beatty Cutoff/Mud Canyon:** admin lane complete, use extreme caution - pavement missing, undercut areas, and missing shoulders. This closure is staffed by NPS during the day.



Racetrack Play on 9/20/23. We still can't drive to this location due to impassable section of Racetrack Road.

- **North Highway/Bonnie Clare:** admin lane to Castle (4x4 needed because still has debris in driving lane).
- **Dantes View:** Roadway cleared, shoulder work needed.
- **Emigrant/Wildrose:** admin 4x4 lane to Rogers Peak.
- **Lower Wildrose:** completely impassable due to 9-foot deep cut across the road.
- **Big Pine Road:** CLOSED
- **Saline Valley:** CLOSED. South Pass is extensively damaged. North Pass just has one bad area, passable to Unimog. Chickenstrip has X on it.
- **Darwin Falls:** CLOSED, heavily damaged. Falls trail area scoured, trees are gone from falls area.
- **West Side Road:** CLOSED, heavy damage.
- **Harry Wade Road:** CLOSED, heavy channeling where Amargosa cuts across.
- **External Roads**
 - **CA-190:** CLOSED all the way to Olancho. Possible bridge damage at mile 17, between CA-136 and US-395. Admin travel west of the 136 Junction is discouraged until the bridge is assessed.
 - **CA-136:** OPEN
 - **CA-127:** Closed from Baker to Tecopa, likely until January. Open north of Tecopa.
 - **Trona Wildrose & Panamint Valley Road:** Closed, now safe for admin travel in sedans.

Links

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Emigrant Canyon Road 9/20/23.