



Death Valley National Park

Hurricane Hilary – DVP Incident

Situation Update – Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Updates

- **Greenwater Valley opened Friday, October 20.** By mid-November, we expect to enact a new policy making (free) permits required for roadside camping along Furnace Creek Wash Road (aka Greenwater Valley Road). Permits will not be required for roadside camping in Gold Valley (but road is really bad there) or Deadman Pass.
- **Mud Canyon Road & Daylight Pass** are tentatively scheduled to open Nov. 3. The contractors will put reflective barrels
- **Westside Road:** Archeologists are checking for cultural sites ahead of the equipment operators, who are also currently working here. However, we are not going to be able to repair the damaged soggy area at north end with in-house labor. That will be included in FHWA's contract this spring. After the parts of Westside Road are done that our equipment can do, that team is likely to focus on the side roads and Butte Valley.
- **Racetrack Road:** The contractor VIPER dozer is a few miles past Teakettle Junction. After Racetrack Road, likely to work on Lost Burro Gap into Hidden Valley, then track the dozer down through Lippencott Road to eventually head towards Saline Valley Warm Springs and Steel Pass.
- **Media exaggerations:** LA Times [article](#) overpromises lakes in sand dunes and flowers. This has led to lots of questions to front line staff and PIO.



Near Mengal Pass. Photo by Dave Brenner.



One of the large eroded rock stairs in Goler Wash (west side of Panamints). This road is maintained by Inyo County, but leads to Mengal Pass and Butte Valley, which are NPS.

Current Status

Hotels: **Open**

Camping

- Furnace Creek, Sunset, Texas Springs, and Stovepipe Wells are **open**.
- Emigrant Campground is closed due to waterline problem. This is likely to last a few months.
- Other campgrounds behind closed roads are closed (even to backpacking use).

Current Status – Roads

The public can walk or bicycle on roads that are closed to vehicles (except Bonnie Clare Road/Scotty's Castle).

- **CA-127:** CLOSED from Baker to Dumont Dunes.
- **CA-190:** **Open**. Expect loose gravel, especially where broken road was filled in but not repaved yet, and where they are working on shoulders. Construction happening in multiple places. Several areas of 20-minute delay traffic control. Argus Grade (Father Crowley to Panamint Springs) has up to hour-long traffic control delays.
 - **Dantes View Road** **Open**
 - **Greenwater Valley (Furnace Creek Wash Road) – Opening on 10/20.**
 - **Deadman Pass Road – Opening on 10/20.** Not much worse than normal high clearance 4x4 condition.
 - **Gold Valley Road – Opening on 10/20.** Much worse than normal high clearance 4x4 condition; travel at own risk.
 - **Twenty Mule Team Canyon Road** **Open**
 - **Echo Canyon** – Closed. Roadwork is complete, but need to install the campsite markers. (Hopefully mid-November)
 - **Hole in the Wall Road** – Closed. Roadwork is complete, but need to install the campsite markers. (Hopefully mid-November)
 - **Zabriskie Point** - **Open**
 - **Badwater Road** – **Open on 10/15 from CA-190 to Badwater Basin** Closed from Badwater Basin to CA-178/CA-127 (Shoshone).
 - **Golden Canyon** - **Open** Caution advised beyond Red Cathedral.
 - **Desolation Canyon** **Open**
 - **Artists Drive** **Open**
 - **West Side Road** – Closed on both ends. The north end had a 30-foot section completely missing. That spot still has a foot of standing water and deep quicksand-like mud. Expect this to be closed all winter.
 - **Devils Golf Course** – **Open**
 - **Natural Bridge** **Open**

- **Badwater Basin** **Open** The temporary lake is still beautiful, but has definitely shrunk. Water now starts at the end of the white trampled area. The ground is slippery, but stable enough to walk on. Public should be directed to only walk on previously trampled areas. Seems like the pay-to-play ratio to kayak out there is no longer worth it.
- **Harmony Borax Works & Mustard Canyon Road** **Open** Caution on trail due to washed out edges.
- **Salt Creek** Closed.
- **Beatty Cut-Off:** Closed. This is not going to be part of the FHWA temporary contract. It will be part of the FHWA permanent repair contract, likely to start in February.
 - **Keane Wonder Mine:** Closed
- **North Highway:** Closed. The FHWA contract will do 4 miles of temporary repairs. The road will be finished with the FHWA permanent repairs contract, likely to start in February.
 - **Mud Canyon / Daylight Pass:** Closed. Tentative opening with emergency repairs done on Nov. 3. The FHWA contract for temporary repairs started 10/16. FHWA contract for permanent repairs likely to start in February.
 - **Titus Canyon:** Closed.
 - **Big Pine – Death Valley Road:** Closed. NPS will work on the southern 8 miles after finishing Racetrack Road. Inyo County has not given a timeline for their section.
 - **Racetrack Road:** Closed. NPS has heavy equipment working here currently.
- **Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes:** **Open**
- **Grotto Canyon:** **Open**
- **Cottonwood/Marble:** Closed. Hopefully open mid-November.
- **Mosaic Canyon:** **Open**
- **Emigrant Canyon Road / Wildrose:** Closed. Will not be part of FHWA temporary repairs. Will be part of FHWA contract for permanent repairs, likely to start in February.
- **Lake Hill Road:** **Open**
- **Panamint Valley Road (to Trona-Wildrose and then to Trona):** **Open**
- **Darwin Falls:** Closed
- **Father Crowley:** **Open**
- **Saline Valley Road (South Pass & North Pass):** Closed. Inyo County posted on their website that they don't have a timeline for this to be repaired and opened.

Links

[Hurricane Hilary in Death Valley National Park](#)
[Alerts & Conditions - Death Valley National Park](#)