

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

www.DNR.Alaska.Gov



Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2022

East Hatcher Pass closed due to extreme avalanche activity

(Palmer, AK) – Citing safety concerns for both the public and emergency personnel due to recent avalanche activity, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) has issued an emergency closure of the East Hatcher Pass Management Area in the Mat-Su Region.

The closure, effective immediately, pertains only to the East Hatcher Pass Management Unit that is managed in cooperation with the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW). Recent snow events have made the East Hatcher Pass Area dangerous for recreationists and two avalanches have crossed multiple sections of the road leading to the pass.

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is not able to clear the road at this time so the area will be closed until the DOT&PF is able to remove the snow. The current expectation is that it will be at least two weeks before the road is cleared and re-opened. A large berm was erected at Milepost 11 to discourage transportation of any kind beyond that point.

“The decision to issue a Director’s Order for an emergency closure after the recent weather events in this area is to reinforce to the public that this is a dangerous area to be in right now,” said Stuart Leidner, Superintendent of the Mat-Su Region of DPOR. “We are concerned for the safety of anyone who enters the East Hatcher Pass Management Unit in its current condition, including emergency personnel involved in any potential search and rescue operations.”

Director’s Order Number 334 was issued pursuant to Alaska Administrative Code 11 AAC 12.335 (Closures and use management) due to the concern over public safety and will be rescinded when Hatcher Pass Road is reopened and DPOR has determined its areas are safe to access.

CONTACT: Stuart Leidner, 907-745-8935, stuart.leidner@alaska.gov