

## **SUBCOMMITTEE DOCUMENT**

DRAFT

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

rev 11/15/08

### **IIIA. ORV SAFETY CLOSURE**

*PURPOSE:* Ensuring the safety of the driving public when natural conditions within CAHA or in a specific area present a clear and imminent threat of (a) significant bodily injury or death to the driving public or other CAHA users or (b) significant damage to personal property, primarily vehicles and their contents.

*SCOPE:* May be applied within any routes, trails, and areas designated for ORV driving.

*TRIGGERS FOR CLOSURE:* Conditions listed below may trigger an ORV Safety Closure in the event of a clear and imminent threat of significant bodily injury or death; and/or damage to personal property, primarily vehicles and their contents. Examples of hazards that could justify a closure include, but are not limited to:

- deep beach cuts which block the beach from dune to surf with no obvious way around;
- obstacles, such as exposed stumps, shipwrecks, or debris that cannot be safely by-passed or that block the entire width of the beach and cannot be easily removed;
- severe beach slope that puts vehicles in an unsafe gradient position that increases the chances of the loss of vehicular control.

Triggers do not include:

- a narrow beach, by itself;
- tides which block access through portions of beaches occur periodically and predictably and are an obvious, easily avoidable hazard;
- hazards blocking only a portion of the beach, where safe passage is available around the hazard.

*(If beaches are open to ORV use in front of the villages during the winter...)*

*SAFETY CLOSURES IN FRONT OF VILLAGES DURING THE WINTER:* In addition to ORV safety closure triggers listed above, additional conditions listed below may trigger an ORV safety closure in front of villages during the winter when seasonal closures are removed:

- ▶ To allow for pedestrian safety and the free movement of traffic, when a minimum 40 ft (12 m) width of beach is not present between the mean high tide line and the toe of the dune.

When seasonal closures are removed in front of villages during the winter, an automatic 15 mph speed limit will be implemented, unless otherwise posted. This will assist in providing for visitor safety on narrow beach areas in front of villages where pedestrian activity occurs.

*CAHA PERSONNEL ACTION:* Providing for the public safety is the responsibility of all CAHA employees. The following is expected of CAHA personnel.

- Law enforcement (LE) rangers should have the authority to enact closures consistent with the triggers noted above.
- Non-emergency service staff, when encountering safety hazards, should establish initial safety precautions and contact the LE ranger staff to evaluate the situation and establish any necessary ORV Safety Closures.
- Where hazards block only a portion of the beach, staff will mark and post the hazard to direct ORV traffic safely around the hazard.

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*MONITORING:* ORV Safety Closures shall be monitored on a weekly basis.

*MARKATION:* ORV Safety Closures shall be clearly marked by carsonite posts and signs indicating the area is closed to ORV use.

*ORV SAFETY CLOSURE NOTIFICATION AND CONTINUANCE:* Any employee initiating an emergency ORV safety closure will notify their supervisor immediately. The Superintendent and Division Chief will be notified as soon as possible of any such emergency ORV safety closure. As soon as possible after the initial closure has been established, but no later than one week, the employee will complete a "Closure Request Form" and submit the form for final approval through the chain of command. Such form should include the coordinates of the closure, the specific reasons for the closure, the dates of action, and the employee taking action. Completion of a "Closure Request Form" will only be required when a complete beach closure is established and does not apply to any modification of the ORV corridor width that does not preclude access. As long as the area is closed, the form shall be updated weekly to include a brief description of the condition of the area based on the weekly monitoring.

*TRIGGERS FOR RE-OPENING:* Sufficient diminishment, reduction or elimination of the conditions and hazards described under *TRIGGERS FOR CLOSURE* would constitute the trigger for re-opening a closure. ORV safety closures are intended to be in effect only as long as visitor safety or personal property is clearly and imminently threatened.

*STAKEHOLDER INPUT:* The Park shall establish and maintain a standing ORV committee with representatives from various sections/geographies of the Park representing diverse interests to provide advice to the Park on policy related to safety closures and openings.