

Pearce/DC Flood Protocols

Guides

Flashflood potential on Diamond Creek Road can be extremely high beginning mid-July, extending through mid-September. Pay **attention to your surroundings** as you get closer to Diamond Creek; has it been raining heavily; does it look like side canyons on river left have flashed recently? It is **okay to call** the MOD the night before your take out! In most instances we won't know the road is closed until the vehicles get to the top of the road on the morning of the take out, but more communication is better than less. If guides and vehicle drivers suspect that the road is closed, both should attempt to **arrive at Diamond Creek early**; to either facilitate getting the vehicles out before afternoon thunderstorms, or to expedite the river trip going downstream.

MOD

Day Before

Because of weather forecast and radar, you likely have an idea ahead of time if Diamond Creek road is or has a potential to be washed out. **Call the Diamond Creek drivers** the day before to touch base about the possibility and review the plan. Driver should be prepared with walking shoes, water, food for the day, and any preparations they might need for an overnight (e.g. contact lenses case, sleeping bag, phone charger, satellite phone). If we are unsure of road conditions, drivers should be instructed to start at least **30 minutes earlier** than usual. There will be a designated **satellite phone** on every Diamond Creek bus. Remind the driver to call and report in at every logistical change or at least once an hour.

Guide will likely call from the river the day before to ask if the road is open. We will only be able to tell them what we know at that time, so remind them to **camp close and get down to Diamond early**. Remind them **not to derig** until they have confirmation the trucks and bus are there, also remind them to call if trucks aren't there. It's better to pass early if we know early, because it's a long way to Pearce.

Day Of

The solutions can vary pending on different factors like weather, capability of guests, road reopening, etc. So, in no particular order:

Not 100% reliable but potentially useful: call the Hualapai (928)769-2219 and ask if they are running trips, this will give you an idea on the road situation.

You may receive a satellite call from the crew as they arrive to Diamond Creek and see that it is empty. This may be an indicator that the road is impassable but not necessarily. The question still is where is the road washed out at? If the bus is only up the road, could their group make the hike to the bus? **Have the crew send a runner up the road** to see if they encounter a bus driver at the pavilion. If we have not heard from a driver yet, instruct the crew to hang out and call back in a designated time frame.

If the driver calls and says the barricades are up at the top of Diamond Creek road instruct driver to go back to Hualapai lodge and ask if they know where the road is blown out and whether there

is a grader down there or on the way. Sometimes it is also beneficial, in certain circumstances, to drive past barricade and continue driving to find out where exactly the road becomes impassable. There are two places where the road most often washes out.

One location is pretty high up on the road; if this is the case, driver will turn around and call you as soon as possible. The second common spot is at the “pavilion” which is only about a mile from the river. If driver gets to the pavilion and cannot go any further, they should get out and begin hiking to the River. When they reach the trip, or they may also reach an up hiking guide, they can have the discussion as to whether the guests are capable of hiking to the bus with their gear. If yes, plan on getting guests out. If no, then consider sending down to Pearce Ferry.

Now that the bus driver/truck driver have attempted the road, is there any indication as to when it might reopen. Sometimes the grader is there, and the grader driver will actually say something along the lines “the road will be open by noon or 3 o’clock.” If the road is predicted to open that day, and the guests cannot hike, it might warrant just having the guests hang out for a few hours at Diamond Creek. Or, if guests hike, it still might warrant the crew is best to just wait at Diamond until truck can get through. If road is not predicted to open that day, it would be best to go to Pearce.

Contact Sam at Canyon Jet and tell him that you have a potential Pearce Ferry/Jet boat take out and want to check his availability/timing/etc. and remind him about the full list of items to grab for crew (on next page for details).

Also, sometimes you have to leave a voicemail. But it’s good to **start the communication** just in case.

If guests and guides have to go to Pearce

- **Remind guides to stay communicative** with sat phone as much as possible. Each situation will vary, and it is very important for the guides to stay in touch as much as they can.
- Relay information below when guides first call in: stopping at Travertine, kayaks, etc. will change timing for Pearce and jet boat timing, best not to stop unless necessary.
- Contact Sam at Canyon Jet **(435)669-4701** to order a guest transport and delivery of transom to trip. **Remind him that transom, filled gas can, shopping list for food and a cooler for them to grab a bag of ice to send to crew** is in his warehouse for situations like this. Motor season ends October 1 which means he will not be able to offer his service if after Oct 1.
- Send Bus driver on jet boat when possible.
- Remind driver to grab food for crew (e.g. pizza).
- Tell the driver they have time to go to Kingman, fuel up, get lunch, movie? Be to Pearce by ___? Depends on whether it's a motor or oar? (usually no earlier than 3pm for motor and 5 pm for row). Driver needs to fill out paper log and must have 30-minute break.
- **Call hotel** and let them know that our "return" will either be cancelled or "late" and that all guests checking in with this return will not be back to hotel until late. Typical arrival back to hotel in this scenario might be 7-9 p.m.
- Be prepared to provide RRS if guests would like it still. Driver can ask, can also remind guests everything can be bought online too. **If return is after 5 pm, MOD will handle all return details, RRS if needed.** If guests are upset about no RRS we can offer free shipping to those guests if they purchase their items online.
- Arrange for luggage to be at hotel either by MOD or RRS (maybe there is an orientation RRS hostess that can help)
- Think about whether we need to feed our guests dinner. Maybe pizza or fast food stop in Kingman? Usually late return guests will be starving because the last meal we fed them was lunch at 1 o'clock.
- Think about whether we need to have MOD at warehouse, do we need to feed the guides again? If trip isn't derigging and truck driver can just pull truck in back until morning. No need for MOD to be at warehouse if it's late.
- Think about what time will crew be back to warehouse?
Derig in Morning? What time? Paid hourly for derig in morning. Be sure to tell Trisha so she can compensate correctly.
- Think about if we need MOD at warehouse in a.m.? Is the driver coming back in or not? Will there be someone able to move the truck?
- Call spouses or significant others of crew? It's not an impossibility that the row trip wouldn't arrive to Pearce until 11 p.m. if they do not get a transom. In this case, it is best for them to camp and derig at Pearce in the morning. If this happens, it may be appreciated by spouses or significant others to get a call from the MOD with a heads-up of the situation.
- Consider laws for driving truck and trailer in the dark (trucks hauling trailers cannot drive before sunrise or after dark)

Reminders for Drivers:

Stop for food for crew (burritos, pizza, etc.) on the way in.

Expectations:

- Strobe lights - on truck (Park truck in view of river in parking lot, only strobe after dark)
- Light from truck, plus search light if dark?
- Bus Driver on Jet boat when possible
- Fill out paper log
- Take a 30-minute break