



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Yosemite National Park  
PO Box 577  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-0577

## Safety Closure - Hazardous Conditions

On February 24, 2023, a storm cycle started which, over the next 21 days, produced 21 inches of precipitation, over 15 feet of snow at higher elevations, and caused over 22 individual rockfalls, debris flows, and slope failures requiring public safety interventions within Yosemite National Park. The park was closed to visitors on February 25, 2023, due to deep snow and torrential rain which was delivered over the course of multiple weather events. While many of the impacts of these storms have been mitigated, much damage and many hazards still remain within the park. In order to maintain the safety of park visitors and residents while allowing management operations to continue unimpeded, the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park is lifting closures to some areas while retaining closures in others where damaged facilities or unmitigated hazards remain.

By order of the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park and under authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.5(a) and Section (a)(1):

Starting Monday March 20, 2023, at 7 am the following areas will be open to the public:

- The El Portal Rd (extension of Highway 140) within Yosemite National Park
- All roadways cleared of snow on the floor of Yosemite Valley with the exception of those within Curry Village, the road adjacent to Stoneman Meadow, and the Happy Isles Loop
- There are no restrictions on foot travel within Yosemite Valley except areas specifically marked as "CLOSED" by signage or yellow caution tape; these areas are closed to all entry.
- The Hetch Hetchy area (open hours are 8 am to 5 pm)

All other areas of Yosemite National Park remain closed to all individuals with the exception of:

- Residents and authorized employees of the park
- Residents of Yosemite or communities only accessible by first entering the park.
- Contractors hired by residents of the park or residents of a community only accessible by first entering the park who possess documentation showing that they have been retained to provide a service at a private residence within the park or community only accessible by first entering the park.
- Utility providers and their subcontractors
- Delivery services to include, but not limited to, USPS, UPS, and FedEx
- Anyone who possesses written authorization from the Yosemite National Park Superintendent

Residents are defined as 1) employees who have been assigned a government or concessioner housing unit within Yosemite National Park by an organization that is authorized to do so and 2) owners or long-term (28 days or greater) renters of houses within the park or communities only accessible by first entering the park. Authorized employees are individuals who are actively engaged in work directed by a supervisor or management official of the NPS, authorized NPS concessioner, or partner who have operations based in the park or community only accessible by first entering the park. The presence of individuals who are not included in the above definitions, to include guests of residents or authorized employees, is prohibited. Short term renters (less than 28 days) of private homes within the park or communities only accessible by first entering the park are specifically prohibited from entering the park.

**The closure area will be monitored to ensure compliance. Violation of this order is considered a Class B Misdemeanor. For more detail see map entitled 2023 Winter Storm – March 20, 2023.**

This designation rescinds all prior closures and will remain in place until rescinded or superseded.