

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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News Release



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TRAFFIC RESTRICTED ON THE TOK CUTOFF TO DAYLIGHT HOURS

Hazards still exist making driving in dark dangerous

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is restricting traffic on the Tok Cutoff Highway to daylight hours only until further notice. Hazards on the damaged stretch of road make driving dangerous during night time conditions. The traveling public will be allowed through with a pilot car escort from 8am to 4pm.

The Tok Cutoff Highway was severely damaged in the earthquake last Sunday. DOT attempted to open the highway to 24-hour traffic yesterday, however, significant problems remain that make the roadway impassable to the public at night. Alaskans traveling between Tok and Glennallen are being asked to coordinate their travel during the daytime or use the Richardson and Alaska Highways to detour the area during the evening.

In addition, having unfettered access to the area in the evening allows DOT and contractors to restore the roadbed to a driveable surface as quickly as possible. "Restoring the roadbed before the area receives a deep freeze or a heavy snow fall is critical to creating a roadway which can be driven safely and maintained this winter," said Ralph Swarthout, Northern Region Director. The Tok Cutoff is an important highway that connects area residents and Southcentral Alaskans with the Alaska Highway.

DOT has worked around the clock since the 7.9 earthquake hit to restore the roads and highways which were affected. DOT is using emergency procurement procedures in order to finish the restoration work quickly and estimates completion of the temporary repairs on the Tok Cutoff by early December. Further work will be completed next Summer.

For more information contact Shannon McCarthy, Information Officer, DOT Northern Region at (907) 451-2240.