

Late winter storms have delayed the opening of some roads and facilities.  
 For updated information, visit [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/currentcond.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/currentcond.htm)

hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.  
 Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.  
 The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.



**DROWNING:** The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful around waterways; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength; and currents are stronger than they appear.

**PLAGUE:** Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

**POISON OAK:** This common shrub grows up to 5000 feet elevation: Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes right away.



**TICKS:** Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



**GIARDIA** in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

**HYPOTHERMIA:** This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

them. Most bites result from teasing or handling. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



**COUGARS** roam throughout the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

**LIGHTNING:** If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

**WEST NILE VIRUS** is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

**CARBON MONOXIDE:** This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent, camper, or RV.

**OZONE POLLUTION:** See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/fed. standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

**EXPLORE SAFELY:** Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential hazards above you, around you, and on the ground. Slow down and share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

**SAFE DRINKING WATER:** The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

**OPERATION NO-GROW**  
 Prevent illegal marijuana growing! Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

## Rules of the road

**EXPECT TRAFFIC DELAYS**  
 in several parts of the parks this summer. See page 12 for details.

**DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES**  
 Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, *always* downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

**STILL-ICY ROADS & TRAILS**  
 Spring storms & cold nights can mean slick surfaces, especially in shady areas. Walk & drive carefully! Snow tires or chains may be required after storms. 24-hour road-condition recording: 1-559-565-3341, press 9, then 4.

**EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS**  
 For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA available 24 hours for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: call 565-4070.

**FINDING GASOLINE**  
 No gas stations within the park. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-335-2000. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. Opens May 6, weather permitting. Available 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Call ahead; gas usually sold 9am-dark. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

**PREVENT CAR FIRES**  
 Hot brakes & mufflers can easily start fires. Stop only on paved areas, not on grasses.

**SPRING OPENINGS OF NARROW, WINDING ROADS IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/SEQUOIA MONUMENT -**  
 Openings may be delayed due to late winter storms:  
**Hwy 180 East to Cedar Grove** in the Kings Canyon: 4/30 at noon,  
**Panoramic Point Road:** 5/21.  
**Redwood Mountain Road (NPS) & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS):** Unpaved, unplowed. Opens when snow melts.

**IN SEQUOIA -**  
**Crystal Cave Road** opens 5/8, Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).  
**Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow** opens 5/21 or sooner if conditions permit. During shuttle season 5/27-9/6, single vehicles more than 22 feet long and combination vehicles are prohibited; exception if valid disabled-parking placards are displayed.  
**Mineral King Road:** Open 5/27 weather permitting. Until then, gate closed at Lookout Point

station requires a free permit from Foothills Visitor Center. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).  
**South Fork Road:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.  
**Middle Fork Road:** Open by mid-May; slippery when wet.

**LENGTH ADVISORY**  
 On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternative: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. Towing a car? Stay in the foothills; use the car to explore.

**BICYCLES**  
 Ride on roads (not trails), single file, and with traffic. Wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

**MOTORCYCLES**  
 Avoid oil buildup on pavement.