Operation Consent Decree
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Beach Access Temporary Emergency Closure Contingency Plan

Introduction. In previous years, the volume of ORV use at specific high-use beach areas during the Memorial Day weekend has caused traffic congestion and gridlock on the beach and impeded traffic on North Carolina Highway 12 (the major access road for emergency vehicles). These conditions have led to frustration, anger and instances of severe disorderly behavior.

Because of the beach closure restrictions imposed by the consent decree, less beach area will be available and congestion may be exacerbated. This contingency plan provides decision-making guidance for the temporary, emergency closure of park areas (not otherwise closed in compliance with the consent decree) for public safety or resource protection.

Authority. The decision to close park areas for emergency public safety or resource protection will rest with the Operations Section Chief in accordance with 36 CFR 1.5. To assist with that decision, the following situation analysis will be conducted.

Situation Analysis. Check each applicable observed situation, listed below, and complete the blocks in that row:

Observed Condition	Location, Time and Date	Potential Consequences
☐ ORV traffic backing up on the beach access ramps, either on or off-beach bound, which threatens to impede traffic flow.	List Location, Time and Date	List Immediate Safety Problems or Threats
☐ ORV traffic on the beach is parked in such a way that two-way traffic is impeded.	List Location, Time and Date	List Immediate Safety Problems or Threats
☐ Multiple incidents of disorderly behavior are being observed or reported.	List Location, Time and Date	List Immediate Safety Problems or Threats
☐ Other situation (describe):	List Location, Time and Date	List Immediate Safety Problems or Threats

Evaluate the situation. If there is an immediate threat to public safety or resources from any one condition that cannot be mitigated by any other action, then closure should be instituted. If there is no one condition with an immediate threat, but two or more conditions exist and the totality of the circumstances lead an experienced supervisor to believe that a public safety threat is imminent, then closure may be undertaken at the discretion of the Operations Section Chief.

Implementation. As assigned by the Operations Section Chief or a Division Supervisor, law enforcement personnel will implement the temporary, emergency closure by not allowing ORV traffic onto beach ramps or by taking other appropriate action. Official vehicles may be used to block access, along with cones and barricades if available. The closure will last until the condition(s) presenting the threat has been resolved.

Notifications. If a closure is implemented, the Operations Section Chief or Incident Commander shall notify the Superintendent, Superintendent's Assistant/Community Liaison, Chief Ranger and Dare County Communications as soon as is reasonably possible.

Rescission of Closure. The closure will be rescinded as soon as the condition(s) presenting the threat have been resolved and operational priorities allow.

Notes and Record of Closures: