PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING STATE HIGHWAYS

Purpose

This policy implements Board Policy 4012 delegating the responsibility for closing or restricting state highway use and for notifying the media of closures or restrictions.

Legal Authority

- Idaho Code Section 40-310(10) - The Board is authorized to close or restrict the use of state highways when necessary to protect the public or to protect the highway from damage.
- Idaho Code Section 67-2901(5) – Idaho State Police authority to temporarily restrict use or close any highway.

The District Engineer is responsible for closing or restricting the use of state highways when such action is necessary to protect the public or to prevent damage to the roadway. The Idaho State Police (ISP), local law enforcement officers, the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Communications Center, and other responsible agencies shall be advised of the closure and when necessary their assistance may be requested.

ISP has the statutory authority to regulate traffic on all highways and roads in the state, including the authority to temporarily close or restrict the use of any highway or roadway whenever the closure or restriction of the use is deemed necessary for the safety of the public.

Law enforcement personnel are empowered at their discretion, to block the highway and enforce temporary delays, inform the news media of road and weather conditions, and issue travelers warnings through State EMS Communications Center whenever conditions warrant such action.

During regular business hours the Office of Communications, in coordination with the appropriate District Engineer or a designee, shall notify the media of roadway closures, openings, etc. During non-business hours the State EMS Communications Center, in coordination with the Office of Communications and the appropriate District Engineer or a designee, shall make the necessary notifications.

Procedures for implementing this policy are in the ITD Operations Manual, Chapter 2.

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L. Scott Stokes
Director