

# **EVACUATION PROCEDURE FOR ICY ROAD CONDITIONS AT MAUNA KEA OBSERVATORIES**

## **I. DECISION TO EVACUATE AND NOTIFICATION**

1. If one group (observatory) decides that weather/road conditions warrant an evacuation, they should inform all of the other groups on the mountain. Groups who choose to remain should understand that they do so at their own risk, and that weather conditions may close the road for more than a week. They should also realize that if they remain, and the weather does prevent them from leaving later, they will inconvenience a lot of other people who need to be involved with their "rescue".

2. If the evacuation is at night, the Telescope Operators will be in charge of the organization. During the day, it will be the persons in charge at the various facilities. If the MKSS road crew is on the summit, they may order an evacuation.

3. After the plans have been set and before departing the summit, at least two groups will inform someone in their organization at sea level, or at Hale Pohaku, what is taking place. These same persons will be notified once the group safely reaches Hale Pohaku.

## **II. SUGGESTED EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

1. The evacuation will be organized to make the best use of vehicles equipped with chains or studded tires and radio and telephones. Before any other vehicles proceed, one vehicle so equipped will travel the relevant roadways and report back to the others. The safest descent route will then be decided.

2. If it is safe for all vehicles to descend, then they will proceed, with those equipped with chains/studded tires in the lead with headlights on, of course.

3. If it is safe for only certain vehicles to descend, then these will be used to shuttle people down.

4. If it is not safe for any vehicles, then everyone will stay at the summit until conditions change.

## **III. REPORTING:**

Even if the evacuation takes place without incident, a report should be made to MKSS for our records and to allow us to take appropriate actions. Ron Koehler should be contacted at home (959-5419) before 10 PM, or via email (koehler@ifh.hawaii.edu) if later.

**WARNING !**

WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS ARE HAZARDOUS

ICY CONDITIONS CAN OCCUR QUICKLY  
AND WITHOUT WARNING

BE PREPARED TO MOUNT CHAINS ON YOUR VEHICLES

ANTICIPATE THE NEED FOR A QUICK EVACUATION

DRIVE VEHICLES IN THE LOWEST GEAR POSSIBLE  
IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE BRAKING PRESSURE

LOOK FOR ICE EVEN WHEN IT IS NOT EXPECTED

**DRIVE SLOWLY AT ALL TIMES**

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