

MKSS WINTER PRECAUTIONS

All mountain staff and visiting astronomers should be aware of the hazards that are presented and the logistical changes that must be made. Although it is difficult to predict the long-range weather patterns, it is always wise to be prepared for the worst conditions.

Please remind your staff to let MKSS know when conditions become hazardous, and to update the conditions on the Hale Pohaku road message board. In the evening, night operators and observing assistants generally know the weather and road conditions better than anyone else, so it is important that all of the operators understand the importance of their communications.

MAUNA KEA WEATHER CENTER: Check current forecast and predictions, road conditions at <http://mkwc.ifa.hawaii.edu>

ROAD CONDITIONS Email: Ron Koehler, Rangers and VIS staff will use this address to distribute emergency information and status reports. IFA sends the message to each observatory. The observatory then distributes the information to their staff.

RANGERS: The Rangers are generally available between 8:00 am and 10 pm. and conduct early morning and early evening road inspections. They work for MKSS and are supervised by the VIS manager, David Byrne. VIS General: **961-2180**, VIS PRIORITY (emergency only): **934-9244**, Morning Ranger **938-3020**, Evening Ranger: **938-1180**, Ranger Veh. Cell Phones: (Morn): **960-2820**, (VIS): **960-3077**, (3rd Ranger): **960-3289**.

DAYTIME/WEEKDAYS: If the summit is receiving rain, snow, or ice during the day on normal workdays please call to let us know. Ron Koehler, MKSS Manager, can usually be reached at the Hilo office, **974-4205**, 6:00am-4:00pm. If not available, please call Ronald Nahakuelua, Utilities staff at **935-0193**, the VIS at **961-2180**, or Alan Hara/HP staff at **935-7606**. Besides the road conditions, we will also be interested in the temperature, wind speed, and visibility.

EVENINGS/WEEKENDS: If rangers and VIS staff are not available, Ron Koehler can be reached at home (**959-5419**). Unless there is an emergency, please do not call after 10 PM. After 10 PM, an email message can be sent (koehler@ifa.hawaii.edu). Generally, Ron will not read these messages until the morning and not at all on the weekends if there are no signs of bad weather. If the information is more urgent, please call him at home. During the weekends, the Visitor Information Station staff should be informed of the conditions (**961-2180**).

ROAD CONDITION ANSWERING MACHINE: Rangers will use the information you provide as well as their own observations to update this message. Generally, a new message will be composed on the machine by 6:30 am, whenever there are problems. The phone number is **935-6268**. If there are road closures, the message machine will be updated during the day. These messages are targeted to the general public. More specific observatory conditions are left on the HP message board. Contact Ron Koehler when more information is needed.

MESSAGE BOARD: When the road has hazardous conditions, the message board at HP will be used to communicate these conditions. All staff that come down from the mountain with fresh information should update the message -- include the date and time. HP staff will updated the board during snow clearing operations, including road status for each facility.