



Glacier
National Park
Rogers Pass
National Historic Site

Parc national des
Glaciers
Lieu historique national du
Col-Rogers



AVALANCHE CONTROL PROGRAM

Since 1961, Parks Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces have partnered to run the world's largest mobile artillery avalanche control program in Glacier National Park.

Avalanche control using modified 105 mm Howitzers remains the most efficient method to keep the transportation corridor open and safe during winter. Other measures are used but they only help controlling avalanches over a few paths. Parks Canada static defenses include berms, dams and snowsheds that stop or divert avalanches to keep them off the highway. In addition to the live explosive artillery, Remote Avalanche Control Systems and helicopters are used to trigger safe, controlled avalanches.

The priority is the safety and reliability of the national transportation corridor through Rogers Pass.



WINTER PERMIT SYSTEM

The Winter Permit System is unique to Rogers Pass.

- It allows Parks Canada to open some backcountry slopes within the highway avalanche control area for winter recreation when avalanche control is not planned or anticipated.
- Slopes close at midnight and their status is updated daily at approximately 7am.

The avalanche control program protects the public from avalanches along the Trans-Canada Highway. It does not render the slopes safe for backcountry skiers and boarders. Safe travel through avalanche terrain is the responsibility of the user.

Learn it. Get your permit.
Parks.Canada.ca/SkiRogers

WINTER IN THE COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS

Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park is in the heart of the Columbia mountains where steep mountains, narrow valleys, and temperate rainforest with heavy rain and snowfall, makes it prime avalanche terrain.

There are 135 avalanche paths within a 43-km stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway through Glacier National Park. Parks Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces conduct avalanche control proactively, bringing down avalanches before they can release naturally, to keep the transportation corridor safe.

Rogers Pass is also known for its unique backcountry touring experience. For safety, users must learn and earn a permit to recreate from November to April.

Questions?

promotions@pc.gc.ca

 [MRGnationalparks](https://www.facebook.com/MRGnationalparks)
[ParksMountainSafety](https://www.facebook.com/ParksMountainSafety)

 parks.canada/glacier

Updated: January 2024



HIGHWAY CLOSURES

Highway closures between Revelstoke and Golden happen year-round to manage emergency situations. They are more frequent in winter due to both avalanche control operations and driver safety in avalanche terrain. With 135 avalanche paths along the transportation corridor in Glacier National Park plus 36 on provincial lands, it is essential to ensure that no one ends up stopped under an avalanche slope.

Closures are used to ensure that highway travellers are stopped in safe places during avalanche control and emergency response. Closures can last from 2 to 8 hours or longer depending on avalanche hazard, road conditions, weather, and traffic volumes.

Drivers are encouraged to use extra caution following road closures as traffic volumes will be higher.



WINTER DRIVING

Safety is a shared responsibility. Be prepared for winter driving in the mountains and adjust your driving to the conditions.

- Check DriveBC.ca for up-to-date road conditions.
- Winter tires are required from October 1 to April 30. Don't forget to follow chain requirements as well.
- Be aware of where you stop, in Glacier National Park, most of the highway is in avalanche terrain. In an emergency, move to the next safe area if you can or stay in your vehicle and call for assistance.
- Let someone know your travel plans, keep your gas tank full, and always keep a safety kit in your vehicle in case of extended closures or mechanical failure. This should include water, food, candles, extra clothing and blankets.



PLAN AHEAD

Always have a plan when visiting during winter, here are some tips on how to prepare when visiting or travelling through Rogers Pass during winter.

- Road closures are often from Revelstoke to Golden, but you could be stopped in a safe zone anywhere in between. When travelling through the pass or any mountain road, always plan for possible delays. Check DriveBC for highway conditions and updates.

- If you plan to ski or snowboard in Rogers Pass, get an Annual Winter Permit. Processing can take up to a week, apply now!

Parks.Canada.ca/SkiRogers

- Winter backcountry users must understand the risks of backcountry recreation, how to travel in avalanche terrain and how to practice self-rescue techniques.

FUN FACTS ...

- Rogers Pass receives, on average, 14 meters (approximately 32.5 feet) of snowfall at treeline each winter.
- Approximately 2000 avalanche events are recorded by Parks Canada staff each year along the transportation corridor through Glacier National Park.
- Parks Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces conduct avalanche control from 17-gun positions with over 300 artillery targets to manage the risk from 135 avalanche paths along a 43-km stretch of the national transportation corridor. (Each path may have multiple start zones)
- Operation PALACI (meaning reliability) is the longest running Canadian Armed Forces domestic operation in Canadian history.
- Approximately 4,000 vehicles and 24-40 trains travel through Rogers Pass each day in the winter.
- Highway closures for avalanche control are normally from Golden to Revelstoke and last about 4 to 8 hours.
- The winter permit was first piloted in 1995. Prior to this, all slopes along the TransCanada highway corridor in Rogers Pass were closed from November to April.
- If Parks Canada or the Canadian Armed Forces have any doubt in the Winter Permit System, it will be shut down. Compliance must be 100% at all times.