



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Apostle Islands
National Lakeshore

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Apostle Islands Media Advisory

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Winter Storm Forces Temporary Closure of Access to Apostle Islands Ice Caves

High Winds Could Compromise Safety of the Ice Pack

Effective at sunset tonight, the National Park Service (NPS) will temporarily close access to the Mainland Ice Caves of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore due to the impending winter storm. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a “[significant winter storm](#)” warning for the area until noon Friday, projecting heavy snows up to 14-18 inches. More importantly for the stability and safety of the ice pack, the NWS is forecasting strong winds tonight and throughout the day Friday, with gusts up to 40 mph.

NPS safety protocols require qualified Park Rangers to monitor ice conditions along the ice cave route. Major weather events such as this storm *could* significantly affect ice conditions. Rangers will check ice conditions as soon as feasible after the storm ends. If the ice remains stable, the earliest that access will be re-opened will be sunrise on Saturday, February 22.

The gate on Meyers Road, which is being plowed by the Town of Bell, Wisconsin, by agreement with the NPS, will be locked during the closure. The road will not be plowed.

The NPS regrets the inconvenience to the many visitors but safety is the highest priority. Ice cave visitors are urged to comply with the closure for their own protection.

For updates, call the park’s Ice Line at (715) 779-3397 x3, web site at www.nps.gov/apis, or Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/apostleislandsnationallakeshore>.

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