



Spring 2015 Contractor and Essential Service Driving Guidelines

As we enter the spring driving season, the National Park Service is reminding all *contractor and essential service* permit holders of the times in which restrictions begin affecting over-sand vehicle use through the West Checkpoint and across all Federal lands on Fire Island.

Beginning in May, the restrictions are as follows:

Contractors (including Plumbers and Electricians):

- May 1 - Driving is suspended east of Point O' Woods due to the presence of threatened and endangered species.
- May 1 through May 15: Driving on Saturdays and Sunday during this period is unauthorized. Weekday driving is authorized.
- Effective May 16, 2015, driving is unauthorized until October 14, 2014; this is a period beginning 10 days before Memorial Day until the day after Columbus Day.

Essential Service:

- May 2 through May 23: Driving on Saturdays and Sundays during this period is restricted to before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.
- May 22 through May 25: There is no driving authorized from 6:00 p.m. Friday May 23 through 6:00 p.m. Monday May 26:
- May 26 through September 8: Driving is authorized before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Driving on weekends and holidays (July 4, September 1-Labor Day) during this time is unauthorized.

During the restricted times all contractor and essential service providers are required to use private boats or the ferries and commercial freight boats. Unless otherwise specified in your permit, transportation of freight onto Fire Island by vehicle is unauthorized. Freight includes: building material, bulk-bottled water, construction material or any other item accepted onto a commercial freight boat.

As a reminder, the conditions of your permits restrict all commercial and essential service vehicles to one-round trip per day and maximum reliance on commercial freight boats is required out of all permit holders. The National Park Service has worked with all of the Fire Island *marine freight providers* to ensure there is an adequate amount of ferry and freight boats available during the times of restricted driving.

Exception requests will be reviewed case-by-case. You must submit requests by either email: fins_driving@nps.gov or fax: 631-289-4898. Requests must include documentation demonstrating a need for vehicle access, and provide justification why the ferry and freight service will not meet your needs. The Seashore can deny any request if it's determined there is adequate ferry service or the request would impair and cause degradation to park resources. Please provide at least one full business day for the park to review the request