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As summer recreation continues across the Kootenay Rockies, several park advisories may affect visitor access and trip planning. This issue brief highlights current access restrictions at Mount Assiniboine and Elk Lakes Provincial Parks and introduces new emergency planning resources from Destination BC to help tourism organizations strengthen preparedness and crisis communications.

Conditions are evolving as flood recovery efforts continue in parts of Alberta. Readers are encouraged to verify the latest information through BC Parks, Alberta 511, and other official sources before travelling.

Parks & Recreation Updates

Several park advisories remain in effect across the region, with changing access conditions and lingering alpine snow creating challenges for some backcountry visitors. Tourism operators are encouraged to share current conditions with guests and remind them to check official advisories before travelling.

Mount Assiniboine: Access Restrictions & Early Season Mountain Conditions

Access to Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park via the Mount Shark route has improved following recent flooding in Alberta. Highway 40 to Highway 742 has reopened, restoring access to the Mount Shark trailhead and helipad, although some traffic restrictions remain and travel times may be longer than usual.

While access has been restored, visitors should continue to plan carefully. Lingering snow at higher elevations, snow-covered trails, high creek crossings, and rapidly changing alpine weather may create more challenging travel conditions than visitors expect, even during the traditional hiking season. Current travel advisories and road conditions should be reviewed before departure, and additional travel time should be allowed when accessing the park.

Tourism operators can help visitors prepare by encouraging them to:

- Check the latest [BC Parks advisories](#) before departure
- Verify access routes
- Be prepared for winter-like conditions at higher elevations, including lingering snow and rapidly changing weather
- Carry appropriate backcountry equipment and have contingency plans for itinerary changes
- Allow extra travel time when accessing Mount Shark due to ongoing traffic restrictions

Elk Lakes Park: Alberta Road Closures Affecting Access

Visitors planning to access [Elk Lakes Provincial Park](#) from the north via Peter Lougheed Provincial Park should continue to monitor Alberta road conditions following recent flooding. Although access through the area has improved, traffic restrictions and changing road conditions may still affect travel.

Visitors should verify current conditions through Alberta's 511 service before departing and allow additional time where necessary.

Industry Resource Spotlight:

Destination BC Launches Crisis & Emergency Planning Resource Library

Destination BC has launched a new [Crisis & Emergency Planning](#) Resource Library to help tourism organizations strengthen their preparedness before, during, and after an incident. Available free through Destination BC's Learning Centre, the self-paced series provides practical guidance, worksheets, templates, and tools to help organizations develop or strengthen their crisis communications plans.

The library walks organizations through every stage of crisis communications planning, including:

- Assessing organizational crisis readiness
- Building a crisis communications team
- Identifying key audiences and stakeholders
- Preparing communication channels and processes
- Responding effectively during a crisis
- Reviewing and improving post-crisis response efforts

The resources are designed for tourism businesses, destination management organizations, sector associations, and other tourism organizations across BC, making them valuable whether you're creating your first crisis communications plan or updating an existing one.

Why it matters: Effective emergency planning and crisis communications begin long before an incident occurs. By investing in preparedness, tourism organizations can respond more confidently during disruptions, support visitor and staff safety, strengthen coordination with emergency management partners, protect destination reputation, and recover more quickly. Destination BC's new resource library provides practical tools to help organizations build these capabilities before they are needed.

Learn More

Explore Destination BC's new self-paced learning series, templates, worksheets, and crisis planning tools:

[Destination BC – Crisis & Emergency Planning Learning Centre](#)

**This report includes content generated with AI assistance, with all information verified and approved by Kootenay Rockies Tourism staff. Final content reflects our organization's expertise and commitment to accuracy.*