

Local

Rock slide closes road to Hells Canyon Dam



Photo courtesy of Idaho Power.

Idaho Power crews began working to clear the landslide that closed the only road to Hells Canyon Dam.

The only road to Hells Canyon Dam has been closed for the past week due to a large rock slide on January 20th that completely blocked the road about three miles north of Hells Canyon Park.

No one was injured in the slide. Motorists were not allowed past Hells Canyon Park until the road was deemed safe.

The slide was about 60 yards long.

Additional unstable material on the cliff above the slide also had to be removed before the road was safe.

Crews didn't know the extent of repairs needed for the road surface until the slide was cleared.

Idaho Power crews worked for several hours last Wednesday the 21st to clear one lane long enough

for drivers stranded between the slide and Hells Canyon Dam to exit.

The road was then closed to allow crews to continue working and also due to the threat of additional slides. Some of the boulders on the road are so large, they have to be blasted to make them small enough to remove.

Idaho Power plans to re-open Hells Canyon Road today at 9 a.m. Friday, following partial removal of a rock slide that blocked the road north of Hells Canyon Park last week.

A single lane will be open, with flaggers on hand to guide vehicles through the slide area.

Motorists should expect delays, and are urged to use extreme caution in the canyon, especially in the slide area.

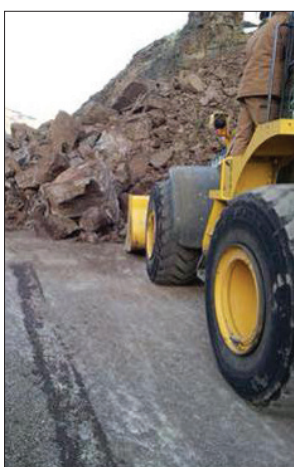


Photo Courtesy of Idaho Power.

Crews are expected to have the blocked road open by today, Friday, January 30.

Some of the boulders on the road were so large, they had to be blasted to make them small enough to remove.

Stained glass gets new sparkle and shine



Photo courtesy of The Geiser Grand.

Workers are finishing up a two-week-long cleaning project on the stained glass ceiling inside The Geiser Grand this week.

Workers have been cleaning and restoring pieces of the stained glass ceiling over the Palm Court inside The Geiser Grand this week and last. The original stained glass at was lost sometime around 1930 for reasons unknown. A replacement was created during restoration of the hotel, installed in 1998 at a cost of more than a quarter of a million dollars.

The design for this national historic landmark was approved by the National Park Service as well as the State Historic Preservation Officer. Antique nineteenth century glass was incorporated into the ceiling design; the purple is from Poland and the red from Germany.

Over the years, dirt intruded into the skylight above the stained glass ceiling. Structural loading calculations were made to not cause undue stress on the building. An approach of building a base platform

on the second floor, and then scaffolding up above that platform was settled on. This provides for safety and ease of the workers and the ability of the workers to do their work with confidence. Local contractors and workers

are engaged in this work, including Rafter M Construction.

Work is expected to be completed by January 31 when the Palm Court will reopen. Tours are held on Fridays and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.



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