



Root Canal & Lane of Pain Closed on Emerald Mountain

Clean Up Operation Being Scheduled to Remove Remaining Aircraft Materials

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-May 19, 2022-As the snow melts on Emerald Mountain, additional materials and parts from the December plane crash are starting to be revealed and the immediate area will be closed again until a clean-up operation can be completed over the coming months.

“We have closed Root Canal and the section of Lane of Pain that parallels the site and are asking people to not use the trail and not disturb the crash site,” said Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager Craig Robinson. “Please be extremely sensitive and mindful when near the affected area.”

These trails will remain closed and under continued observation as additional metal parts and materials resurface and an accompanying fuel spill continues to dissipate. Both Lane of Pain and Root Canal trails cross the approximate one-acre site.

As the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) stated earlier this year, there are still metal fragments under the snowpack. The NTSB has requested that people do not touch or retrieve items but to leave them in place for the investigative team.

City and county staff visited the area near the summit of Emerald Mountain in late last year to assess potential human and environmental health risks due to the reported jet fuel spill.

During the winter site visits, it was anticipated there would be some contaminated soil in the spring and residual fuel likely would migrate down the slope but dilution and degradation from naturally occurring microbes should minimize impacts. Crews will continue to monitor the remaining spill and requirements for any remediation if required.

Routt County Search & Rescue and the Sheriff’s Office conducted the initial response to the downed aircraft on December 10, 2021. The NTSB was on site the next day to investigate and coordinate most of the aircraft removal, which took place during the third week of December. Crews will be back on site in the coming weeks to continue the mitigation efforts with vehicle access.



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