



Ken Field

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Services

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Quality is Crucial

When I look at fine woodwork I am always impressed with the precision of the joints and finesse that some woodworkers possess. To them it may just be a job or an everyday occurrence but to someone who can't work with wood very well, it is a piece of art. Every trade has craftsmen that can be categorized as artists. What separates them from the rest? I believe it is the internal lack of willingness to compromise their standards to speed up a job or cut a corner. In the heating trade there are a lot of tools required to do the work correctly. There are also a lot of parts and supplies needed to make every job go together properly.

I don't even know if my customers would know a sloppy duct connection if they saw one, but I would. I see far too many sloppy jobs in customers' homes and wonder what necessitated poor quality work like that. If a contractor can't dedicate enough time to do a job, then their business practices are questionable. If they did not have the skills needed to do a job correctly then their education is in question. If they did not have the parts needed to do the job then their planning and execution is in question. It is never the homeowners fault when a job looks bad or works incorrectly. It may be their fault for not knowing who they were hiring but that's as far as it goes. Sometimes the companies with the largest ads online and in print have the worst looking jobs. I believe that's because they don't get repeat business. They don't get word of mouth advertising either if they aren't top notch. It pays to under-promise and overdeliver because what looks easy usually isn't and settling for less than perfect is not an option for many of us. Allowing too little time for an installation job is the best way to end up with sloppy work. Nothing ever takes the amount of time allotted and there are always small changes as the job progresses. For example on one of the last jobs we did there was not much room on the exterior of the house to locate a new heat pump. The best option was to relocate an outside faucet so it did not end up being behind the new unit. That was what I did and the homeowner was very happy to get a new faucet and in a better location for them. That's not a compromise.

That's a win for everyone.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

NPS 2022 Reduced Winter Services and Priority Snow Removal Routes

By Kathy Sandt

BUSHKILL, PA- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provides year-round recreational opportunities, however visitor services and maintenance operations are reduced during the winter months when staffing levels and visitation are at their lowest. This includes the closure of some roads and visitor use sites. Areas that will be closed through the winter were selected based on several factors including winterization of water supply systems, reduced custodial and maintenance staff, safety requirements, and other priorities for snow and ice removal.

"Plowing and treating the main roads through the park is our top priority when we have snow and ice. Secondary roads, administrative buildings, and visitor use sites that will remain open for the winter will be plowed after the main roads have been cleared and are safe for travel," said Bill Tagye, Acting Chief of Facility Management at the park. These areas may be closed temporarily in the interim and may not re-open for several days following a storm. Some park roads will receive no winter maintenance and will be closed to vehicles from January 2, or at the first significant snowfall, whichever comes first; most sites will re-open on April 15.

Of the more than 150 miles of dirt and paved roads within the recreation area, a few have been determined to be of highest priority for snow and ice removal and treatment. These roads provide critical access to and through the park, including emergency access, and provide routes for residents living within park boundaries to get to and from their homes. Park staff will make every effort to keep the priority routes open and safe for travel during and after winter weather events, however, roadways may be snow-covered and winter driving conditions may exist during a storm. Even high priority roads may be closed temporarily if conditions deteriorate faster than road crews can keep up with or in the event of equipment failures or breakdowns, but these roads will be re-opened as soon as park staff can get them cleared for travel.

New Jersey Roads:

In New Jersey, the top priority roads that will remain open during the winter months are:

Route 602 (from Millbrook Village to the NPS boundary)



NPS Route 615, Old Mine Road (between Flatbrookville and Pompey Ridge Road), Pompey Ridge Road to Route 615 Old Mine Road between Millbrook and Flatbrookville.

Old Mine Road:

The section of Old Mine Road between the Worthington State Forest boundary and Millbrook Village and the dirt section of Old Mine Road near Van Campen Inn will be closed between January 2, or the first significant snowfall, and April 15.

Additionally, Blue Mountain Lakes Road will remain open to the parking area for the Blue Mountain Lakes trail and will be closed to vehicles beyond that point for the season. Mountain Road will be closed to vehicles for the winter, but visitors may walk, snowshoe, or cross-country ski on the road.

Pennsylvania Road Closures:

US Route 209 is the top priority road for winter maintenance and treatment in Pennsylvania.

River Road in PA will be closed prior to snow and/or ice events and will not be re-opened until priority routes are clear and safe and conditions permit. Zion Church Road will be plowed after River Road has been opened.

River Access: Winter river access will be available at Smithfield Beach, Milford Beach, and Bushkill Access. These areas will be closed temporarily during a storm and re-opened after priority routes are clear and safe for travel. River ice may limit access depending on conditions. The NPS does not clear river

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