



**Continued Guidance from Nova Scotia Trails Federation Risk Management Committee
Regarding COVID 19 and Trail Construction, Maintenance and Monitoring**

Following consultation with our partners, the Risk Management Committee offers the following guidance to our members.

Trail monitoring should focus on ensuring everyone can safely use the select trails that remain open for public use by locals within their immediate neighborhood while maintaining social distancing. The Public Health Authority and Province have issued clear guidelines available at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Large portions of maintenance tasks can be deferred until after social distancing and travel restrictions are lifted. These include most items of an aesthetic, comfort and beautification nature, such as, surface grading, mowing and vertical brushing. The Risk Management Committee will be sending along more detailed information on these aspects at a later date.

A trail group's safety obligations should be limited to emergent infrastructure related safety concerns. Critical regulatory signage issues such as stop signs down should be addressed immediately. Storm damage assessments should be conducted as soon as possible after an event looking for downed trees, storm surge or washout damage. Downed trees should be cleaned up using the least number of workers possible and following the guidelines set out in The Forest Professional Guide which can be found at <https://novascotia.ca/lae/healthandsafety/docs/ForestProfessional.pdf> Please ensure any site where maintenance is occurring is clearly marked with appropriate workplace signage. Should damage not be immediately repairable, it should be marked and or the trail section posted as closed. In the event your trail is on crown land immediately contact your Lands and Forestry District Supervisor to discuss the closure. Collection of trailhead garbage from overfull receptacles can be safely accomplished. Guidance on this can be found at https://swana.org/docs/default-source/advocacy-documents/guidance_on_coronavirus-2020_03_06.pdf?sfvrsn=fee6b88a_2 Doggy bag dispensers can be sanitized, wiped down, then replenished wearing gloves. A pictorial on proper glove removal can be found at <https://www.jdmt.ch/together-against-covid-19-proper-glove-removal/5744/?lang=en>

We encourage all trail managers to move forward with major trail construction projects involving contractors where possible, guidance on construction sites and Corona Virus can be found at <file:///D:/Users/Admin/Documents/New%20NS%20Trails/Risk%20Management/covid/Construction%20sites.pdf>

Should you have any questions on these matters please call Rick Jacques, Co-chair Nova Scotia Trails Risk Management Committee for further advice, we will direct you to the right resources, we are in the process of identifying outside resources to assist with major weather events etc. We will continue to try and keep you informed and prepared through consistent, timely and sustained communication.

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