



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

EMERGENCY OPERATION ORDER

No. 23-01

September 13, 2023

Effective date(s): Thursday, September 14, 2023 until further notice.

Affected facilities: George Washington State Campground, Glocester; George Washington Management Area, Glocester; Pulaski State Park and Recreational Area, Glocester; and Durfee Hill Management Area, Glocester

Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. § 42-17.1-2(19) and 250-RICR-100-00-7, Section 7.15

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (“RIDEM”) finds that due to several positive tests of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (“EEE”) (regarded as one of the most serious mosquito-borne diseases) in and around the Glocester area, an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare justifies the temporary closure of the following properties:

- George Washington State Campground, Glocester (all campers must vacate campsites by 11:00 am on Thursday September 14, 2023, in accordance with 250-RICR-100-00-8, section 8.6(J))
- George Washington Management Area, Glocester
- Pulaski State Park and Recreational Area, Glocester
- Durfee Hill Management Area, Glocester.

Due to the public health risks RIDEM is closing the state-owned properties listed above to all public recreation and other uses. Gates to the entrances to these properties will be closed and informational signage will be posted explaining the reason for the closure.

This order shall be enforceable under the provisions of 250 RICR-100-00-7, Section 7.21. In accordance with this section, any person found to have violated this order may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 for each violation, enforceable in the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal.

Given the serious nature of EEE and the potential peril posed by EEE, RIDEM advises that should individuals choose to visit any of RIDEM’s State Parks or Management Areas that remain open, proper prevention measures should be followed. For more information on EEE and ways to prevent it, please visit www.health.ri.gov/eee.

Notice of this Emergency Operation Order shall be posted on and available for review on the RIDEM website <https://dem.ri.gov/regulations>.

By Order of the Director:

Terrence Gray

Date: _____