

Searchers find hiker but warn much of Juan de Fuca Trail still closed

After locating an overdue hiker on Tuesday, Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue is reminding hikers that much of the Juan de Fuca Trail remains closed.

B.C. parks crews are still working to repair damage to the 47-kilometre trail caused by storms in 2024, and “significant hazards” remain, the group said.

In a social-media post, it also said wildlife in the area has become less accustomed to human activity, which can increase the risk of dangerous encounters.

Members of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 37, Sooke RCMP, conservation officers and B.C. Parks staff joined in the search for the hiker, which began at about 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The rescue follows another on Monday, when Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue had to carry out a hiker with a leg injury near Mystic Beach, an area of the trail that is open for day use.

B.C. Parks said in an advisory on its website that the Juan de Fuca Trail is unsafe and impassable, with damaged bridges, unstable slopes, washouts, fallen trees and blocked sections.

Five campgrounds — Bear Beach, Chin Beach, West Sombrio, Little Kuitshie, Payzant — are also closed due to damage.

B.C. Parks is expected to provide an update on the state of the trail later this spring.

China Beach campground is also off limits during its regular winter closure. — Times Colonist

