

Seal Coat Problems on U.S. 26, U.S. 93 and I-15

We are doing all we can to mitigate the problem of loose gravel on U.S. 26, U.S. 93 and Interstate 15 until the contractors can repair or replace the seal coats, if needed. We are committed to do the right thing for the traveling public.

Unfortunately, contractors can't repair or replace the seal coats until next summer, if needed, when temperatures are sufficiently warm for successful seal-coat repairs/replacements. Seal coats normally are performed between June 15 and Aug. 31. The road-surface temperature must be 80 degrees and rising to allow heat to help asphalt and rock bond to the pavement.

Our focus now is minimizing vehicle damage by sweeping the road or otherwise removing or holding down loose gravel. We are working with the contractors, who warrantied their work, to continue sweeping the road and to pay damage claims. We also are working with Idaho State Police to enforce the 45 mph speed limit on U.S. 26, which is designed to help reduce flying rock chips. We have placed signs along the roadway to notify motorists of loose gravel and of the need to slow down and increase their following distance.

This week, we will lower the speed limit on U.S. 93 from 65 to 45 mph and will post signs to notify drivers of loose gravel and of the need to slow down, not pass other vehicles, and increase their following distance.

We also are monitoring I-15 between Idaho Falls and Dubois for loose rock chips and will work with the contractors to address roadway needs. We contracted with HK Contractors Inc. to seal-coat I-15 between Idaho Falls and Sage Junction this summer, and we contracted with TMC Contractors Inc., also of Idaho Falls, to seal-coat I-15 between Sage Junction and Dubois this summer.

If rock chips of a seal coat come loose, the contractor sweeps them off. Sweeping the roadway a time or two usually solves the problem. If more chips come loose, crews sweep the road again. Contractors have swept the roadway on U.S. 26 eight times, U.S. 93 four times and I-15 three times and will continue doing so as long as needed. ITD also will try other reasonable corrective actions.

To file a claim for damage received on U.S. 26 east of Idaho Falls or on I-15 between Idaho Falls and Sage Junction, please file an incident report with contractor HK Contractors Inc. at <http://hkcontractors.com/contact-us/incident-report/>. To file a claim for damage received on U.S. 93 between Arco and Trail Creek north of Mackay, please telephone contractor Geneva Rock Products Inc., of Murray, Utah, at 801-765-7885, or visit the company's website at <http://genevarock.com/contact> and submit your information through the feedback tool. To file a claim for damage received on I-15 between Sage Junction and Dubois, please telephone contractor TMC Contractors Inc. at 529-9895, or send an email note to tmccontractors@cablone.net. Drivers generally must file claims within 30 days of the damage.

Please contact Public Information Specialist Bruce King (745-5611; bruce.king@itd.idaho.gov) for further information.

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