

TOOLIK FIELD STATION

2023 OPERATIONS/SAFETY OVERVIEW



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WHAT TO EXPECT THIS SEASON ?



- Logistics and transportation expected to operate closer to “normal”, but with some adaptations. We expect to have three north and south rotations per week, in peak season. Calendar will be finalized by early February. Schedule may look different than pre-pandemic years.
- Dalton Highway Express: north on Fridays and south on Saturdays: June-July
- Population will be capped at ~125 (shared rooms with some dorm-style tents reserved for sick bays)
- Town Hall mid-February; Summer reservations due March 31, 2023

COVID-19 Mitigation

- Moving from a pre-travel quarantine model to a testing and response-based approach
- Before traveling to Toolik individuals will need to provide proof of 2 negative rapid antigen tests
 - 1 test will occur 2 days before the individual is scheduled to drive up to Toolik
 - 1 test will occur on the scheduled day of departure
- Additionally, camp residents will undergo a rapid antigen test on their 5th day in camp
- Projects will be responsible for furnishing a minimum of 4 rapid antigen tests per participant

COVID-19 Mitigation

- Quarantine hotels are no longer required, but projects are responsible for housing arrangements should a member of their group test positive before the travel to Toolik
 - Individuals who test positive will not be permitted to travel to Toolik until they have been cleared in accordance with CDC guidelines. In such an event TFS Safety will be in contact until the individuals have recovered.
- Camp residents are encouraged to wear a face mask indoors for their first 7 days in camp but will, otherwise, be able to go about their business normally
- Additional dining space will be provided to help facilitate social distancing and we will be exploring air purification systems for the dining hall
- Vaccines (or exemptions) are still required
 - Users will complete a policy review and vaccine attestation through their myToolik account prior to their scheduled travel date
 - No more vaccine Zoom calls with Scott

COVID-19 Mitigation

- Camp housing assignments will attempt to separate new arrivals from established residents whenever possible
- Should a camp resident contract COVID-19 at Toolik they will be relocated to a designated “sick bay” and be monitored until they can be cleared in accordance with current CDC guidance
 - Should there be a campwide outbreak residents will undergo periodic antigen testing and camp arrivals may be deferred until the situation is stabilized
- Our new focus is one of personal responsibility
 - Travellers should be aware of the risks of COVID-19 during travel and protect themselves as such (ie. wear a mask during travel, avoid large gatherings)
 - Understand that there is always a possibility that COVID-19 could enter Toolik at any time
 - Adjust your plans in the week leading up to your scheduled travel date - just because there isn't a quarantine doesn't mean you shouldn't practice social distancing and isolation

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Breaking ground for new water intake that will supply the station (fall 2023)
 - Intake will be located near the existing well but rest just above the lake bed
 - This project will require excavation of a portion of the tundra near the shore line as well as approximately 30 feet of lake bed from the shore line
 - New intake will reducing sediment filters clogging and provide consistent gpm at the treatment skid
- Grand opening of the new shower facility (spring 2023)

STAFFING



Welcome to:

- Station Supervisor: Mike Reynolds
- Logistics Coordinator: Kara Kornhauser
- Fiscal Professional: Adam Chisom
- Fiscal Assistant: Haley Tyler
- MEF Technician: Kevin Williams

Goodbye...

- Pete Reynoldson left for another UAF job
- Stevie Goetz took another job in IAB

Active recruitments:

- Alternate Lead for MEF
- Sous Chef
- 2 x production cooks
- 2 x kitchen assistants
- Seasonal staff for 2023

STAFFING CONTINUED (OPERATIONS)

Kitchen:

- High turnover in seasonal workers
- Looking at several new members
- Goal is to maintain the same level of customer satisfaction with the user community

FOAs:

- 5 seasonal employees throughout the summer
- 4 on staff at any given time with 3 being on shift at the station throughout the season

MEF:

- Hiring a second Lead for the MEF to offset on-station workload
- MEF structure change from a 6 staff model to 5 staff model
- Team will consist of
 - 2 x Leads
 - 2 x full-time Technicians
 - 1 x seasonal Technician (summer)

SEDC STAFFING UPDATE

- GIS & Remote Sensing
 - Jorge will be returning for another season
 - Hiring a seasonal technician
- Environmental Data Center
 - Two year-round technicians
 - Mayra Melendez-Gonzalez
 - Abby Jackson
 - Hiring two seasonal technicians

SEDC FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND IDEAS

- GIS & Remote Sensing aspirations
 - Actively seeking funding for fixed wing drone to support flights over large areas (Wingtra)
 - Actively seeking funding for new sensors for drones (thermal, methane, carbon dioxide)
- Environmental Data Center
 - Continuation of Remote Access
 - Expansion of data analysis and products
 - Pathogen Herbarium



THANK YOU!

