

Storm Update 11/10/12

Four-wheel drive vehicles are now traveling along N.C. 12 on Pea Island after N.C. Department of Transportation crews opened an emergency access route for them, starting at 12:00 p.m. today. This marks the first time NCDOT has opened the highway to residents and visitors since damage from Hurricane Sandy forced the closure of N.C. 12 from south of the Bonner Bridge to Rodanthe on Oct. 28.

[The route](#) offers one lane in each direction, except at the temporary bridge and the Bonner Bridge, where it narrows to a single lane for vehicles traveling in both directions. The department placed temporary traffic signals at each bridge to regulate traffic flow safely.

Drivers of four-wheel drive vehicles should expect a rough ride, which will include traveling over sand, damaged pavement and some water. On the sandy portions of the access route, motorists should follow makeshift lane markers comprised of barrels, cones and flags connected with orange protective fencing.

In addition, NCDOT has awarded the third of three contracts to repair damage from Hurricane Sandy on N.C. 12 in Dare County to Barnhill Contracting Co. The \$4.1 million contract includes reconstructing dunes, rebuilding the sandbags and repairing the roadway at the S-curves near Rodanthe.

Work crews are already stockpiling sand in Avon and hauling it to the damaged area near Mirlo Beach and working to rebuild the dune that was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in Kitty Hawk. On Pea Island, NCDOT is clearing sand on N.C. 12 north of the temporary bridge. Repairs on the temporary bridge will resume as soon as high water from the storm recedes.