Safe access to reservoirs in winter

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SYNOPSIS Scottish Canals has 19 operational reservoirs. Most of these reservoirs are visited weekly by operational staff to control discharges and to carry out surveillance inspections of dams.

In the past, staff have been unable to reach some high level and remote reservoirs due to snow and ice. Scottish Canals has prepared a plan to provide staff with a safe means of accessing dams in such conditions.

This paper highlights the risks associated with accessing reservoirs in severe winter weather and describes the options for safe access, including the use of tracked all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

Regulations and guidelines covering the safe use of ATVs are listed, together with advice on the purchase and hire of such vehicles.