



## Simpson Springs Public Information

- **Location:** Simpson Springs is located in the Utah west desert along the Pony Express Trail approximately 100 miles or 2 hours driving southwest from Salt Lake City. Elevation: 5100 feet.
- **Preparedness:** Simpson Springs is in remote desert, 50 miles from the nearest hospital and services. Cell phone coverage is spotty along the Pony Express Trail west of Hwy 36. Come prepared with spare tires, car jack, extra fuel, tool kit, shovel, tow chain, blankets or sleeping bags, tent, warm clothes, food, and extra water. Basic first aid and survival kits are recommended.
- **Road conditions:** The Pony Express Trail is graded and graveled from Hwy 36 west to Callao. In good weather, it is passable by 2-wheel drive low clearance vehicles. During inclement, wet weather, 4-wheel drive is highly recommended. The road can get rough in places, and flat tires are a frequent occurrence. Be sure to bring extra spares.
- **Navigation:** Only maintained roads are signed; you must come prepared to navigate on your own with maps, compass, and/or GPS. Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- **Motor Vehicles:** All motor vehicle travel, including ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles must be limited to existing roads and trails. No cross-country travel is permitted. Obey all route signs. Avoid driving on wet, muddy soil or vegetation.
- **Parking:** Parking is very limited at Simpson Springs. Please confine parking within existing lots or on established roads. Avoid parking on vegetation or wet soil.
- **Weather:** Spring weather in the west desert can change rapidly. In good weather, expect daytime highs in the 50-60s and nighttime lows in the 30-40s. During stormy weather, temperatures can be significantly lower due to precipitation and wind chill. High winds, freezing rain, and snow are possible. Come prepared for severe conditions.
- **Sanitation:** Pit toilet facilities are available at the Pony Express station site and within the campground. You must provide portable toilets for groups greater than 100 people, one for every 50 people.
- **Water:** Fresh water is available at several locations but is not rated potable. Water should be treated prior to human consumption. Water is safe for animals.
- **Camping:** You may camp within the campground at designated sites only on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$5 per night. Pay at the self-service fee station in the campground. There are 20 individual sites available. Reservations are not taken. Parking, picnic table, and fire pit located at each site. Maximum of two vehicles and 8 persons per site. You may also camp down in the large group camping area near the sheep corrals west of the campground after first contacting the BLM Salt Lake Field Office for permit information and availability.
- **Fires:** All campfires must be in a permanent fire pit or portable fire pan. Carry out or bury ashes. Please do not construct fire rings or have open fires. Firewood is not available at Simpson Springs. Do not cut down any standing trees or other vegetation.

- **Trash:** Simpson Springs has no trash pickup. You must carry out all trash and dispose of it properly where services are available. Do not burn or dump trash in fire pits or pit toilets.

## **POTENTIAL HAZARDS:**

- **Mines:** DO NOT ENTER or search in abandoned mines! These structures can be dangerously unstable and/or contain poisonous air. Only trained and properly equipped professionals should go into mines.
- **UXO:** The west desert has been used extensively for military training and practice bombing in the past 70 years. Unexploded ordinance (UXO) may be encountered in the surrounding area. Do not pick up any metal or strange looking objects. Report any suspicious findings including the location to the authorities immediately and get clear of the area. If possible, mark the site.
- **Military property:** The U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground is just west of Simpson Springs. This area is fenced off and all public access is restricted. Do not proceed beyond the fence line. Hazardous conditions may exist. Military security will respond accordingly if you travel without permission onto the base.
- **Wildlife:** Spring is a particularly sensitive time for all wildlife. The long winter has depleted the animals' energy reserves and made them more vulnerable to stress. Many species are also preparing to give birth and rear their young. This can sometimes make them aggressive and defensive. Avoid going near all wildlife, particularly pronghorn antelope, wild horses, coyotes, badgers, and raptors such as hawks, owls, and eagles. Do not go near bird nests as this may cause them to be abandoned. Do not chase or harass wildlife.
- **Sheep Dogs:** The west desert of Utah is used by sheep herds in winter and spring. Several large herds are located west of Simpson Springs and will come thru the area soon. If you encounter a sheep herd, move away from it immediately. Very large and aggressive guard dogs accompany the herds and may attack strangers.

For more information, please contact: BLM Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84119; Phone: 801-977-4300

In case of emergency, dial 911.