

Fires, Floods, Riots and Earthquakes; The Rangers Respond!

by Kelly Byrne

L. A. City Park Ranger & Region 4 Director

Working for the City of Los Angeles has had its share of excitement lately. The Department of Recreation and Parks employs 27 Peace Officer Park Rangers.

(Two were just promoted so that leaves 25 that patrol.) The force is complimented by 11 Maintenance Rangers and 50 part-time Park Patrol Officers. (The next article will have to be on personnel—or lack of.) The ranger division is responsible for 350 parks, beaches, mountains, harbors, museums and community centers. All Peace Officers are sworn by the State to carry fire-arms but the department does not allow it (this topic is also another article).

So what could unarmed rangers do during a major civil unrest? We worked fire patrol and assisted on hot spots that occurred in Griffith and Elysian Parks (two very large chaparral foothill parks located next to Hollywood). The Ranger dispatch provided 24 hour hot-line informational services. Park rangers were ready to open Recreation centers and operate them as holding cells if the L. A. Police Department deemed it necessary.

When mass hysteria occurred during a flash flood through the Sepulveda Basin engulfing entire blocks of park land, the rangers were the first to respond. The command post was established with ranger personnel being consulted and called on continuously through the rescue efforts.

During the firestorms, rangers were prepared to set up shelters for victims who had to leave their homes. The City of Los Angeles does not

outfit the rangers with enough fire gear, but rangers were still able to assist at the various command posts.

On January 17, 1994 Los Angeles was hit by a 6.6 earthquake. Rangers once again were the first to respond and with authority. When frightened victims flocked to our parks, rangers took care of immediate medical problems first and then began a needs assessment which would venture into the thousands. Rangers coordinated with outside agencies and turned recreational areas into temporary shelters with portable toilets, food, water and other necessities. When Los Angeles went on tactical alert, ranger personnel worked 12 hour shifts with all days off cancelled. A lot of personnel had suffered personal losses and one ranger was injured at home as the earth violently shook. As after shocks continued in the coming weeks, rangers played a major role in distributing vital supplies to frightened children and bewildered parents. Many rangers were called upon to establish communication with the misplaced victims to inform them of the services available to them and took it upon themselves to reach out and personally help many individuals, sometimes just by offering a shoulder to cry on.

The City of Los Angeles knows how to respond to a disaster and how to take care of its own, the park rangers are part of that response. Two days after the initial quake, a very scared patron asked a ranger why the moon had turned blood red and is this the end of the world?

The ranger responded with a reassuring "no, I still have five hours to go on my shift and the City never lets me go home early." No matter what the question is, the *ranger* will respond.

Riverside Conference Update

By now you have heard all about the recent earthquake in the Los Angeles area. **Do not let this discourage you from attending the conference in Riverside March 7-10.** Riverside is well south of the earthquake damaged area. Getting there should not be a problem, even if driving from north of Los Angeles.

For those planning to drive to the conference, take I-5 south. Near Gorman, take 138 east. This avoids all the road problems associated with the earthquake. Highway 138 goes to I-15, where you should turn south. At the junction of I-15 and I-215, take I-215 south into Riverside.

The conference committee has done a good job organizing the speakers and events. This is a conference not to be missed. **See you there!**

From the President's Desk

By Bob Donohue

As we get ready to gear up for our busy season in the parks, the subject of ranger safety and health becomes a hot topic. It does not matter whether you work in Southern California or Northern California, are armed or not armed, ranger safety must be a priority.

Increasingly, California's parks are being used by people who are less than model citizens, who lack respect for both the parks and uniformed personnel. This trend is alarming. Rangers must be aware of every situation and its potential for problems.

People want to believe that those using our parks are doing so as a refuge from the rigors of everyday life, a place they can go to commune with nature. The reality is not everyone using the parks is there to enjoy a peaceful day with nature, they are there for their own agenda.

This dichotomy is sometimes difficult for people to comprehend. On the one hand is the perception that the parks are used only by law abiding citizens. On the other hand there is the reality that some bad people use our parks. The ranger is usually viewed in a "Yogi Bear" way. We are seen as affable, fun loving, knowledgeable keepers of nature. The average person does not yet want to believe that a ranger must sometimes be a law enforcement officer, making arrests and clearing the park of some very undesirable people. Even if we are not armed we still must deal with these problems.

Maybe someday in the future we will get back to those days where we are just the guardians of nature. Until then, it is incumbent upon each of us to get the type of training that will keep us safe and healthy. PRAC will be offering workshops on Ranger Safety in the near future and many agencies have ongoing training, but if you are unable to attend either of the above then contact your police department. They have training several times a year and are usually willing to allow rangers to attend.

Above all, there is one technique we can all use that will keep us out of trouble: Back out of any situation that appears unsafe or threatening and wait for backup. **Discretion is always the better part of valor.**

In closing I want to extend my warmest wishes for a speedy recovery to the people of Southern California, especially the rangers who not only suffered losses in the recent earthquakes, but also have worked long hours to see that the people left homeless by the quakes had safe parks to live in until adequate, safe housing could be found. I congratulate all of the rangers who have worked tirelessly through this ordeal on a job well done. We all hope for a speedy return to normalcy.



EMS Response to Law Enforcement Situations

by Scott Dunn

EMS personnel must periodically respond to details which have law enforcement overtones. Many of these calls involve the aftermath of violence and potential crime scenes.

The following information is to enhance the knowledge and skills of EMS personnel to prevent harm to themselves and to be more cognizant of evidence and evidence preservation.

Across the county there has been an increase in assaults against EMS workers. The fact that you are there to help does not make you immune from assault. Not everyone likes you. You, your uniform, your mission, all this may represent a link to authority. The helpful firefighters, ambulance personnel and even the park ranger may be perceived as adversaries in the eyes of the criminal or emotionally/mentally unstable.

In order to maintain the safest possible work environment for EMS personnel and also to help maintain scene integrity, a few points need to be addressed.

- Whenever dispatched to a scene that may have law enforcement overtones or scene security problems (ie. assaults, suicide attempts, weapon injury calls, or calls in bars or areas frequented by unruly crowds, etc....) it is best to ascertain if Law Enforcement personnel are on scene and if it is secure and safe for your response. If Law Enforcement is not on scene or if the scene is not secure, it may be best to stage away and out of sight from the scene until Law Enforcement personnel have made it as secure as it can be. Never assume it 100% safe.

- As you respond, remember that your approaching siren can be heard quite a distance. If practical, safe and within policy and procedure, it may be more prudent to limit the use of your siren as you respond to a staging area.

- When in the "stage" mode, don't make yourself or vehicles visible to the scene. Your goal is to be out of sight and out of the line of gunfire. Being seen not only makes you a target, but may force you into an unsecured situation when individuals come to you. While in this

mode, also be alert to individuals walking, running or driving by. They could be the suspect.

- When entering the scene use good discretion about the use of light. It may not be too wise to advertise who you are or to highlight the positions of your Law Enforcement comrades who may be trying to maintain secure positions of cover. Cops really hate to be spotlighted.

- Be sure to give yourself an escape route in the event you must flee the scene for your own safety. Don't get pinned in.

- Keep in mind, when on scene there may be fragile evidence underfoot and that the patient(s) may not be pleased about the whole affair. Be alert and be on guard.

- Minimize the number of personnel who must enter the scene. This helps to reduce the risk of damaging evidence. Keep the "Looky Lou" out, even if this means the ranking personnel who do not have a function on the scene. Remember, anyone who enters the scene is subject to writing a report of why they entered and what they say and did. They are also very likely to be ordered into court to testify on their involvement.

- If requested to write a report please remember the immortal words of Sgt. Joe Friday, "Just the Facts." Don't give your personal opinions.

- Objects as small and fragile as a hair, a fiber, a fingerprint, shoe print, or even a single drop of blood may be extremely critical for a successful investigation.

- Don't touch any surface or handle any object you don't need to. If you must touch something use extreme care in handling it and remember what you touched, how you touched it and exactly what position it was in. Even with gloves on, you can wipe off fingerprints left by the person before you. Given the right conditions, fingerprints can also be left by people wearing standard latex gloves.

- If you have access to a camera it may not be a bad idea to take a few quick scene photos before it is disturbed by you and your crew.

Remember though that it is a crime scene and that you should turn your film over to the investigators. Don't jeopardize the case by keeping the film and showing your photos to everyone and their brother.

- If death is obvious, don't touch the body and immediately back out the way you came.

- Do not look for donor cards on suspicious death victims. Leave them alone.

- During your assessment of the patient be alert to weapons and remember that just because the person may be hurt and you are helping them doesn't mean they won't hurt you or take you with them to effect an escape. Be on guard and watch your patient. If your patient is a suspect or may present a threat make sure that they have been searched and handcuffed by law enforcement personnel if need be.

- If you must cut the patients clothing, don't use those nifty little knife or bullet holes as your starting point and don't cut through them either.

- Any clothing or articles removed must be saved. Don't lose them or dispose of them in the trash at the hospital.

- Try to avoid transferring blood stains by touching objects or other patients with your blood stained hands.

- If you must generate waste on scene please place it in a central place and be sure you tell the Investigators what you generated. If you want to drive a Detective crazy, just leave your bloodstained gloves somewhere on scene and not tell anyone their yours. However you won't think its too funny when they lift your fingerprints from the inside of the gloves and arrest you for the murder.

- Be alert to anything your patient says to you. You may be the only one who heard their "dying declaration." It is not uncommon for a spontaneous statement to be made by people immediately after a trauma.

Story continues on page 5.

A Sharp Man Behind a Sharp Tool

by Bill Trunick

When someone asks for a pulaski they are handed a two edged tool with an axe on one side and a grub hoe on the other. The hoe is used to cut fire lines, then if needed, rotated 180° and the axe is used to cut roots or fell a tree. Most of us have seen one or used one but do you know about the man it is named after?

Edward Pulaski was born February 9, 1868 in Ohio. He migrated west when 16 years old to Idaho. He held a variety of jobs including a packer, railroad tie cutter, prospector, miner, steam engineer, smelterman, plumber, carpenter, blacksmith, and quartz-mill expert. In July of 1928, at the age of 40, he entered the U. S. Forest Service. In Montana, he was put in charge of a district which include the Coeur D' Alene river to Enaville and the South Fork to the Montana divide. At that time the only paths were old miners trails. Pulaski was assigned to build 26 miles of trail from St Joe to Wallace using only the \$1,000 allotted. All 26 miles were built on budget and parts of the trail are still being used today.

Pulaski's dedication and leadership were best exhibited during the fire holocaust of 1910. In August, a continued drought helped small fires develop into large ones. Pulaski had 120 men working on a fire which kept growing. The situation got to the point where the firefighters safety was their only concern. On August 20, fifty men broke away and rushed down toward a creek. That night they lost their lives. Pulaski led the remaining men when the smoke got so thick they couldn't see. Pulaski located a mine and got his crew, equipment and two horses into the mine tunnel. Pulaski barricaded the mouth with such materials as were at hand and then ordered the men to lie face down on the ground. Because of the rampant fears of the men, Pulaski issued his orders holding his gun. Eventually the orders were obeyed. One of the horses' tail was burned off from the intense heat. The next afternoon the crew stumbled out making their way back to the base fire camp. One of the crew members never reached the mine and five suffocated in the mine but the rest were safe. Pulaski continued doing his duty to the government and the public until he passed away on February 2, 1931.

So the next time you ask for a pulaski, reflect for a moment about the man who was sharp and kept his head in a crisis.



Mountain Medicine Seminar

West Valley College Park Management Program Saratoga, California

Course Syllabus—Spring, 1994
April 15, 16 and 17

- Introduction to Mountain Medicine
 - What is Wilderness?
 - Quiz/questionnaire of info you should already know
- Registration, Fee Collection, and Logistics of this Course
- What About You?
- Review of Anatomy
- Liability
- Priorities
 - Numero Uno!**
 - Take Control
 - Emergency Rescue
 - Don't Forget About the Healthy Survivors
 - On Scene Personnel & Bystanders, Pooling On-Scene Resources
- Patient Management
 - Figure Out What's Wrong—Patient Assessment
 - Determining Consciousness
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Airway Management
 - Bleeding
 - Circulation
 - Cervical Spine
 - Shock

1400 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, California 95070-5689
(408) 687-2200

Three Not So Little Pigs

by Ken Miller

Recently staff at Rancho San Antonio have had problems with three semi-wild pigs. I'd like to share the story with you for entertainment and hopefully to learn from our experience.

The story begins when a patrol ranger photographed three pigs on a trail in late December. The photo was the first confirmed pig sighting for Rancho San Antonio. The newspaper printed an article reporting the sighting and all was quiet for a few weeks. We then read another article reporting that a pig chased a woman jogger for two miles. There were many secondhand reports of the pigs treeing joggers along the trails. We put up warning signs and said that the pigs would be trapped and killed.

An anonymous person phoned the newspaper and said that the pigs had been raised by hand and released outside of the Preserve. He said that their names were Tom, Dory, and Olga; and that they weren't chasing joggers but only looking for companionship.

Animal rights groups protested the plan that the pigs would be killed and offered to take the pigs once captured to a preserve for abused farm animals in Solano

County. We agreed to the offer. The Department of Fish and Game had to approve of our plans and we were working with a County Wildlife Specialist for the trapping.

Overall I think that our District has handled the event "pretty well." Staff consensus seems to be that if we had a resource management plan the problem would have been taken care of in a quicker and more efficient manner.

The eye opener for me was how much attention the media paid to our pig problem. We must have had over 100 media contacts and interviews on four television stations. If anyone of us had made a mistake it could have been a publicity disaster.

As I write the article the only things missing are the pigs. They have not been seen for two weeks. We have stopped the trapping attempt until they are seen again. Please post a B.O.L. in your park for Tom—male boar 175 lbs. gray and tan, Dory—female sow 165 lbs. chestnut, and Olga—female sow 170 lbs. gray with black spots. I wonder if we will ever catch them....

Summit Up Outdoor Recreation Conference Call For Papers

Manuscripts are being accepted for conference proceedings that will be published as a portion of an Outdoor Recreation conference to be held in Eugene, Oregon, April 17-20, 1994. Individuals submitting papers for the proceedings are not expected to present their papers.

Submissions may address issues, trends, and advances in park and recreation resource management and outdoor recreation. Descriptive, conceptual and empirical work will be considered. All papers should: (a) follow the American Psychological Association, 3rd edition format, (b) be single spaced and word-processed (submit a 3 1/2"

Macintosh compatible disk and one hard copy of the paper), (c) include a title page which includes name(s), title, affiliation and phone number, and (d) contain an abstract of 150 words or less.

Those contributing accepted manuscripts will receive a free copy of the conference proceedings. Please send submissions for peer review to Bill Hendricks, Ph.D., 5238 University of Oregon, Recreation, Tourism Management and Design Program, Eugene, OR, 97403-5238. Papers must be received on or prior to March 21, 1994. For further information contact Bill Hendricks, (503) 346-5431.

EMS Response (Continued from page 3)

matic event. Often times this spontaneous statement holds more truths than statements made later when they have had time to think about the event. Don't rely on your memory. Write it down or get it on tape.

- In the event of a major investigation (homicide or potential), please keep all personnel who entered the scene readily available for the Investigators. They may need statements, shoe prints, fingerprints and/or may need you to point out things on the scene.

A successful scene is not only one that a good investigation is developed from, but it is one that no additional people are hurt (especially one of us) and all agencies involved work in harmony.

This article was prepared by Scott Dunn. Mr. Dunn is Deputy Sheriff currently assigned as a Crime Scene Investigator—Identification Technician for Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. In addition to working as an Investigator and in a variety of patrol assignments with the Sheriff's Department, Mr. Dunn is also a Faculty Member of the Santa Rosa

Junior College Public Safety Training Center and has worked in a variety of Public Safety Fields, including Park Ranger, Volunteer firefighter, Search and Rescue Team member and an Emergency Medical Technician and First Aide Instructor since 1977.

Mr. Dunn welcomes any comments and/or suggestions that may help to educate the Public Safety Worker who responds to situations that have law enforcement overtones. He can be contacted through the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department or the SRJC Public Safety Training Center.

Open Letter to PRAC

This letter is to express our appreciation for the valuable information PRAC members have provided on the phone and through the mail about their units, and other park ranger units around the Bay Area. In October of 1993 our unit was faced with a department proposal to contract out our jobs to a private security firm. In November, we had the fortunate opportunity to see the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unequivocally reject the proposal. The supervisors cited experience, training, professionalism and overall quality when they unanimously voted to keep San Francisco Park Rangers for the security operations at Candlestick.

We are now in a quandary, however, as the Recreation and Park Department has already eliminated the Park Ranger positions at Candlestick on July 1, 1993 in anticipation of the security being contracted out. So, although the Board of Supervisors rejected the private security proposal, we still do not exist on paper in the budget. The Department will have to go through the entire process of establishing civil service positions required as if the positions had never existed at all.

In the mean time, the Department has agreed to maintain the 4 officers that have been serving at Candlestick until such time as the positions can be officially reinstated. The outlook is decidedly more positive than it has been in a while and we have even heard ideas about augmenting the number of officers to a total of 8. As we begin the new year, we look forward to solidifying our positions and getting involved with others in the profession around the Bay Area and the state. Once again, we appreciate your efforts and wish you success in the new year.

Sincerely,
Bill DuBord

San Francisco Park Ranger, Candlestick Park

REGION 3 HAPPENINGS

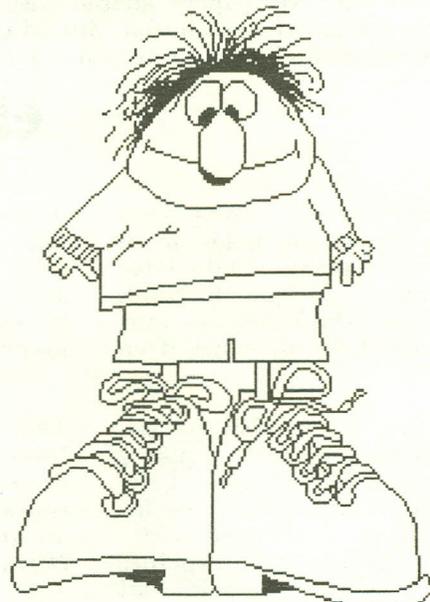
BY DAVE LYDICK

Ken Weiner reports from Roseville City Parks that park development continues despite the economy. Ken says that a golf course and 4 new parks will be coming on line, including an 80 acre regional park with an aquatic center. Ken and Dave Sloane are staying busy dealing with an escalating gang problem and were recently responsible for getting 6 gang members placed on gang conditional probation. Ken stated that they are in the process of trying to get a half time position approved. (Those looking for a job better check in with Ken or Dave at the conference.)

Cheryl Goss reports from El Dorado Irrigation District that the Ranger staff is planning on computerizing their reservation system so that getting a campsite will be easier in the future. Cheryl was successful in getting a state grant to build a bridge over Park Creek which will tie all the park trails together.

Sacramento County Parks recently was awarded a 2 million dollar grant from the Federal Gov't. to use for projects on the approximately 1800 acres of County Park land that was formerly Mather Air Force base. The majority of the funds will go to the Sacramento Local Conservation Corps to hire and train approximately 50 corps members to do the projects on the old base property over a 2 year period of time. A Ranger 1 test is anticipated in March to fill an existing Ranger 1 position. Those people that sent in resumes or applications for a possible provisional appointment will be mailed the job announcement when it comes out.

CONGRATS
ON YOUR
GREAT
FEAT!



The Minneapolis Park Police are Requesting Assistance from PLEA Members

If you can provide written information regarding consolidation and/or merging of park and city police departments we would like to hear from you.

Specifically we are seeking data that:

Indicates whether consolidation or merging two departments saves or loses money and how much.

Contrast consolidation with merging, explaining which is advisable and under what circumstances.

Lists the pros and cons of both consolidation and merging.

Discusses the financial and non-financial issues that need to be studied prior to making a decision regarding merging or consolidation.

Provides data regarding pro and con results that have occurred following consolidation or merging.

Please mail or fax any information you have to:

Sergeant J. J. Schultz
Minneapolis Park Police
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Phone (612) 348-2183, fax number (612) 348-9354.

Thank you for helping us gather this information. We will really appreciate whatever you send. All information regarding the topic will be compiled and made available to other PLEA members

Sincerely,

J. J. Schultz

Open Letter

by Lt. Donald Watstein
PLEA Liaison

A letter to the park rangers at Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District for their exemplary work efforts following the Northridge Earthquake.

The Board of Directors and I wish to extend to you our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for the exemplary work efforts displayed by you during the hours and days immediately following the Northridge Earthquake on January 17. You came in to work on you day off to assess the damage to District property leaving your family to cope with the monumental task of cleaning up the mess at home.

We also understand that you continued your task of evaluating damage to District property long after your normal work hours during those first few hectic days. We commend all of you on your continued efforts to support the District, especially in the face of personal problems and tragedies of your own.

As you know just by looking around the Sycamore Drive Community Center that there continues to be a reminder of the earthquake as we see FEMA, OES, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and dozens of other volunteers that have gathered here to help those in need. The Board and I appreciate your patience and understanding during this most unusual circumstance as you continue to support these people as they help others.

Jerry L. Gladden

General Manager
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

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Submissions should be mailed to David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Dr., Ben Lomond, CA, 95005. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 336-2948. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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