

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

December 30, 1992

HIGH ALTITUDE HAZARD PAY

Earlier this year, Ranger Activities submitted a request to OPM through channels which asked that hazardous duty pay be allowed for employees working at high altitude in SAR's and other operations. OPM subsequently asked for and was provided additional background information justifying our request. The following is excerpted from one of our memos on the subject:

"There is no doubt in anyone's mind that work at high altitudes, under certain circumstances, is of a hazardous nature. This is particularly true when a person must go from a low altitude to a high altitude quickly, such as on a rescue operation or other emergency. However, it is equally true that much routine work at certain altitudes, say between 8,000' and 17,000', when a person's body has time to acclimate, is not particularly hazardous.

"From the medical literature, as well as our experience, it is also apparent that any work, or, for that matter, merely existence, above 17,000' is hazardous at any time. The human body is not meant to exist at and above this altitude, no amount of acclimatization will help, and the body gradually deteriorates.

"With these facts in mind, we recommend the following approach:

- * If a person has time to acclimatize to altitudes between 8,000' and 17,000' at the approximate rate of 1,000' per day up to 14,000', and 500' to 1,000' per day between 14,000' and 17,000', then no hazard pay would be appropriate.
- * If a person must ascend rapidly to an altitude between 8,000' and 17,000' due to an emergency situation, then hazard pay would be appropriate. This is based upon the principle that - for other than an emergency - a rapid ascent is optional and not required.
- * For any work or required stay above 17,000', hazard pay would be appropriate."

We have not received any reply yet, but will advise you if any action is forthcoming.

UNIFORM RECOMMENDATIONS

Employees continue to submit numerous recommendations for revised, alternate or additional uniform components directly to WASO without any park or regional review. Because of the volume and the widely varying merit of these proposals, it is difficult to evaluate and respond to all of them. Procedures for making recommendations were disseminated to all field areas in a memo from the Associate Director, Operations, on February 10, 1992; information regarding these SOPs has been sent to park uniform program administrators on several occasions since then. The procedures are not designed to block recommendations, but rather to insure that the people making suggestions put a little thought into them before sending them on.

Only two recommendations following these procedures were made and reviewed during 1992. Responses on each are pending. No action is being taken on any other submission. If you do not have a copy of these procedures, please contact your park uniform program administrator.

EMS STATS

Here are the statistics on EMS incidents in the NPS in 1991:

Minor Medical	9,132
Basic Life Support	11,011
Advanced Life Support	1,987
Advanced Cardiac Life Support	550
Total EMS Incidents	22,680
Number Worked by NPS EMS Personnel	7,168
Total Saves	253
Total Fatalities	302
Cases with Trauma	735
Cases with No Trauma	254
Air Ambulances Utilized	1,029
Level IV EMS Personnel (Permanent)	729
Level IV EMS Personnel (Seasonal)	437
Level V EMS Personnel (Permanent)	118
Level V EMS Personnel (Seasonal)	40
Number of Level VI EMS Personnel (Permanent)	52
Number of Level VI EMS Personnel (Seasonal)	40
Total Personnel (Permanent)	899
Total Personnel (Seasonal)	517
Person-Days Training	14,117
Cost of EMS Training	\$139,866

CC:MAIL CONNECTIONS

You may have noticed that there are now individual addresses on cc:Mail for each of the staffers in the Branch of Resource and Visitor Protection here in WASO. If not, here's the listing. Please note that they are NOT yet on line, as we are awaiting phone hookups. We will advise you when they can be reached at those addresses. Until then, messages and files for them should continue to come to WASO Ranger Activities.

Jim Brady	WASO RAD Chief Ranger
Dick Martin	WASO RAD Chief R&VP
Wes Kreis	WASO RAD Fees
Tony Sisto	WASO RAD Regulations
Wes Henry	WASO RAD Wilderness
Jim Lee	WASO RAD Emrg Service
Bob Marriott	WASO RAD ARPA/Drugs
Dale Dickerhoof	WASO RAD Law Enforcement
Joe Smith	WASO RAD CIRS
Paul Berkowitz	WASO RAD ARPA Cache
Mary Davis	WASO RAD Pgm Analyst
Tina Young	WASO RAD CR Secretary
Tarsha Edwards	WASO RAD CRVP Secretary

NOTES FROM THE PARKS

No notes received.

PARK VACANCIES AND OPM REGISTER OPENINGS

No notices of openings or vacancies received.

QUESTIONS?

Is there something you'd like to know about that we can answer? Let us know and we'll publish the question and answer in an upcoming edition of Clear Text. Please be sure to specify that the question is for response in this newsletter, as questions also come in via cc:Mail which are for individual staff member response. If you've got a question that needs answering, it's likely that other rangers will also be interested in the reply.

Clear Text is the bi-weekly electronic newsletter of the Ranger Activities Division in WASO. It is distributed via cc:Mail to all ranger training and operations centers (FLETC, AEDC, MEDC, BIFC), regional office ranger divisions, park chief rangers, and other interested parties. If you would like to get it but don't currently receive it, please advise Ranger Activities via a short cc:Mail message. Any office may receive it, including districts and subdistricts within a park. PLEASE pass it along to others in your division and park.

Prepared by WASO Division of Ranger Activities

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