

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

May 6, 1994

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, HOAL, STMA, NIFC), regional office ranger divisions, park chief rangers, and other interested parties. Short submissions for the last three sections of the report - Field Notes; Park Exchange; and Vacancies, Register Openings and Details - are welcome and encouraged.

Next issue: May 20, 1994
Submission deadline: May 18, 1994

STRUCTURAL FIRE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Following an extensive research and review of all available fire service program delivery measuring information, a process has been identified that offers promise of a methodology for assessing the effectiveness of the structural fire program for National Park Service facilities.

The selected process is a systematic collection, arrangement and analysis of the factors, components and information that impact the effectiveness of a structural fire program. It's designed as a self-assessment process that will produce meaningful information in a usable format whereby managers can more completely understand the factors and interrelationships that comprise an acceptable level of structural fire service for each given, specific set of circumstances.

The process was crafted by a committee of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) over the last several years. Its principal architects are nationally and internationally recognized fire service management experts. Field testing is being conducted this year in twelve jurisdictions of various sizes and styles of operation across the nation.

In order to assess the viability of the program for National Park Service use, an orientation meeting was held in April in which key NPS personnel received details about the components of the process and an overview of how it works. The 25 participants included the ten regional structural fire coordinators, members of the group that is revising NPS-58, and representatives from parks with significant structural fire programs. They received a concentrated, 14-hour presentation which highlighted the strong points of the process and described ways that it could respond to some of the identified concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Service's structural fire program.

The information was presented by Ronny J. Coleman, California state fire marshal and chair of IAFC's fire department accreditation committee. His presentation was well received and will be fully considered and evaluated before a decision is made on adoption Servicewide. At least one unit has already decided to use the process.

The main advantages in Servicewide application of the system are that we will

have a uniform self-assessment process methodology and that it will provide useable information in an understandable format to support park managers in planning and budgeting considerations for this important element of the resource protection function.

Plans are underway to field test the process at a representative facility in the near future in order to identify and establish process implementation guidelines. Subsequent steps will become clearer as experience is gained with actual field applications.

Jim Farrel
Ranger Activities

STRUCTURAL FIRE STUDY

Joe Mazzeo, North Atlantic Region's structural fire specialist, is developing a presentation package addressing the fire issues faced by managers within the parks. He's requesting information from you which documents the successes - rather than the failures - of fire protection programs, such as smoke/heat detection operations resulting in early notification and subsequent reduction of damage, proper operation of sprinkler systems, or the use of portable fire extinguishers for fire control. Anything you can send along would be appreciated, but he'd particularly like slides, pictures and written reports. A phone call to discuss the incident will also suffice.

You can reach him by mail at 15 State Street, Boston, MA 02109; by phone at 617-223-5221; by fax at 617-223-5173; and by name on cc:Mail. Joe's project is endorsed and supported by the Branch of Fire and Aviation Management.

Joe Mazzeo
NARO

GAO FIRE AUDIT

GAO has been asked by several members of the California delegation (including both Senators) to address several issues stemming from the fires in southern California. The working title of the audit is "Federal Response to October 1993 California Fires"; the project manager is Dan Jacobsen in GAO's Seattle Region. The issues that they will be addressing will include the following:

- * Assessing the effectiveness of the federal response by determining steps taken to alert federal, state and local officials; determining and analyzing the process used to mobilize and coordinate resources; analyzing the mobilization of air tanker assets, with "particular attention to reported delays in activating Air National Guard tankers".
- * Assessing California's FIRESCOPE program and determining if it is usable as a national model.
- * Assessing the sufficiency of the emergency watershed protection program.

A GAO field trip to Riverside, California, is expected shortly.

Jim Douglas
DOI Fire Program Coordinator

ACTING REGS SPECIALIST

Russ Wilson, a paralegal specialist in Alaska Regional Office, will be coming in to Ranger Activities on May 16th to serve as the division's acting regulations specialist until July 2nd, or, possibly, until the position is

filled. Russ will take over for Mike Johnson, who's headed back to Fredericksburg - Spottsylvania, where he's the park's chief ranger.

LANGUAGE SERVICE

Parks in the Pacific Northwest Region will have an advantage in bridging the communication gap with non-English-speaking visitors this summer through AT&T's language line service. This toll-free service, which is available 24 hours a day, permits conference calls with specially trained individuals who act as translators.

Here's an example of how it works: A patrol ranger comes upon a single car vehicle accident. The two occupants are foreign visitors; the wife, who is the only one who knows any English, is critically hurt. The ranger gives her husband a specifically prepared "Point Talk" card and is able to determine that a Korean translator is needed. The ranger calls the emergency toll-free number through a radio telephone patch. Within a few moments, a translator fluent in Korean is on the line, and the language barrier is overcome.

Pacific Northwest Region has subscribed to this service for a number of years and makes it available to regional parks for free. When the service began, AT&T asked for an evaluation of its effectiveness. Region praised its efforts, but suggested that Native American languages be included. AT&T has accordingly added Lakota and Navaho to this year's listings.

Mark Forbes
PNRO

SPECIAL PARK USES

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office has completed the latest revised edition of their procedures for managing special park uses. The SOP explains the regulations, policies and guidelines that govern special park use authorizing documents, such as special use permits, memoranda of understanding and agreement, commercial film permits, commercial use licenses, letters of authorization, and rights-of-way. It's available on a 3.5 inch diskette in WordPerfect 5.1. Complete printing instructions are included on the disk in a subdirectory called README.1ST. A laser printer is required. Also on the diskette is a subdirectory entitled TEMPLATE which contains sample fill-in-the-blank documents in an approved format. They're designed to be customized for your park.

If you'd like to obtain a copy of the diskette, send a high density disk in a disk mailer envelope to Pat Bentley/Dick Young, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Questions can be directed to Pat at MARO or Dick at COLO/MARO via cc:Mail.

Pat Bentley
MARO

SOLICITATION FOR INFORMATION

Due to an increase in the number of Valley Fever cases in eastern Ventura County in California, the Department of Health and Human Services has asked the Department of Interior to provide the names of employees from its offices and bureaus who traveled to southern California following the January earthquake. Names should be sent to: Emergency Response Coordination Group, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, F-38, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333.

You can also contact center staff for answers to any questions you might have by calling 404-488-7100.

Jim Lee
Ranger Activities

NEW LYME DISEASE TEST

According to an Associated Press report, researchers at the Mayo Clinic have developed a new test which can determine with certainty if a patient has an active Lyme disease infection. The new test, which costs about \$200, uses a technique that determines whether any DNA or genetic material from Lyme bacteria is present in joint fluid, normally taken from a patient's knee.

"This test offers doctors a powerful new diagnostic tool for patients whose Lyme arthritis has gone untreated or has failed to respond to standard antibiotic therapy," said Dr. David Persing, director of Mayo's Molecular Microbiology Lab, where the test was developed.

Conventional techniques for testing for Lyme disease, which cost about \$150, try to grow the Lyme bacteria from joint fluid, but, according to Dr. Joseph Duffy, a Mayo rheumatologist, are not reliable.

The Mayo procedure was tested by doctors at Tufts University and at the New England Medical Center. Researchers said it detected the bacteria in 70 of 73 infected patients.

Dave Spirtes
North Cascades

FIELD NOTES

Olympic

During a luncheon on April 26th, the Clallam County DWI Task Force and Daishowa America, a local industrial company, presented the park with a drug prevention award for its contributions to the DARE and PRIDE programs which have been established in local elementary and high schools. The park sponsors at least ten field trips for fifth graders to different areas of the park every year, and is a major sponsor of the annual PRIDE retreat each year for over 100 high school students. Many permanent and seasonal rangers have contributed their time to teach kids about national park values. [Kym Hunter, OLYM]

Glen Canyon

Rocky Mountain Region SCUBA divers met at Glen Canyon during the last week of April for the 1994 regional dive workshop. Twenty-one members of park dive teams from Bighorn Canyon, Curecanti, Glacier, Glen Canyon, Grand Teton and Yellowstone attended. The group spent three days of the workshop being instructed by Dive Rescue International on underwater rescue, recovery and investigation. The last two days were instructed by Dan Lenihan and John Brooks of the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit. Technical diving, underwater mapping and video, and testing of the latest underwater communication equipment made for a busy week. This workshop satisfied NPS-4 requirements while providing excellent training to team members. [Chris Johnson, RMR Dive Officer, BICA]

PARK EXCHANGE

No entries.

VACANCIES, REGISTER OPENINGS AND DETAILS

Statue of Liberty

The park is recruiting for several GS-5 law enforcement park ranger positions. Incumbents perform a full ranger of law enforcement, EMS and related duties. The positions are NTE one year with a 180 work day limitation and are designated drug testing positions. Employment is contingent upon satisfactorily passing a background investigation. Applicants must possess a commission or be commissionable. Interested individuals should submit a 10-139 and college transcripts to Personnel, Statue of Liberty NM, Liberty Island, New York, NY 10004, ATTN: Jackie Martinez. The announcement number is T1094; it opened on May 2nd and will close on May 12th. For further information, call personnel at 212-363-7726. [Scott Pfeninger, CR, STLI]

Lincoln Home

The park is recruiting for one or more GS-5 temporary law enforcement park ranger positions (NTE 1040 hours per year). The incumbent performs a full range of law enforcement duties and emergency operations, including investigations, response to emergency situations and alarm activations, and provision of first aid and emergency care to visitors and staff. The incumbent also provides a variety of duties related to the effective interpretation of the Lincoln story, and to the operation of facilities within the park. Applicants must currently possess or be able to obtain an NPS seasonal law enforcement commission without further training. This is a screen-out element. Anyone interested in this vacancy announcement, which opens today and closes on May 16th, should contact Dan Banta, Acting Supervisory Park Ranger, at 217-492-4649, or Kathy DeHart, Chief, Interpretation and Ranger Activities, at 217-492-4169. [Norman Hellmers, Superintendent, LIHO]

DIVISIONAL TRAVEL

**** MAY ****

5/9-5/10	Botti	Review of large fire growth modeling project, Missoula, MT
5/9-5/13	Sanders	Employee performance management
subcommittee meeting, Estes Park, CO		
5/9-5/13	Marriott	Instruction and drug program audit, Hawaii Volcanoes, HI
5/10-5/11	Zimmerman	Compliance review of fire behavior research project, Missoula, MT
5/14-5/19	Farrel	NFPA annual meeting, San Francisco, CA
5/17-5/18	Gale	IMT team exercise, NARO, Boston, MA
5/16-5/20	Clark	S-590 cadre meeting, NARTC, Marana, AZ
5/23-5/25	Hurd, Farrel	NWCG meeting, Salt Lake City, UT
5/23-5/27	Broyles	NWCG safety and health working team, Salt Lake City, UT

**** JUNE ****

6/1-6/2	Gale	ICS program presentations, NASAR conference, San Diego, CA
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6/2-6/6	Dickerhoof	Annual leave
6/6-6/8	Marriott	In-service refresher, Cape Cod, MA
6/6-6/10	Gale	S-520/620 cadre meeting, NARTC, Marana, AZ
6/8-6/10	Zimmerman	Fire danger rating group meeting, Ashville, NC
6/18-6/22	Farrel	Hazard fuel removal project planning and review, Mesa Verde, CO
6/20-6/23	Broyles	Southeast Region FMO meeting, Knoxville, TN
6/20-6/24	Zimmerman	Fire behavior analyst steering committee meeting, Atlanta, GA
6/20-6/24	Clark, Berg	Regional audit, PNRO, Seattle, WA
6/22-6/24	Botti	Southeast Region FMO meeting, Knoxville, TN
6/27-7/1	Broyles	Steering committee meeting, Fire Management for Agency Administrators training course, San Diego, CA

If you would like to get CLEAR TEXT 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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