



RANGER ACTIVITIES INFORMATION EXCHANGE



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Chief Ranger's Comments

The demographic review of the 025 park ranger series has been sent to the field. This study, completed by Deke Cripe in the Branch of Employee Relations, is worth serious reading. The study is conservative in that the figures are based on the assumption that rangers will retire when eligible. Unless something unforeseen occurs, that probably is not going to happen.

The supplemental guideline for the 025 series is in draft and will be sent to the field in the near future. This will be a very important tool for managing positions and organizing work. It should greatly increase consistency in classification and identify works in resource management, search and rescue, interpretation, EMS and law enforcement at the GS-3 through GS-9 levels, which are either not well described or are missing in the current 025 standard. Give this document serious review and constructive comment.

I presented Ranger Activities and 025 sessions at the Southwest region's combined chief ranger/chief of interpretation conference at Santa Fe in early December, and will attend Pacific Northwest and Alaska chiefs' conferences in February. The emergency services coordinator position should be advertised after January 1st. Primary responsibilities will include aviation management, search and rescue, health and fitness, MIIMS, EMS and SCUBA. I hope to have a strong register for this important position.

Field Incidents

Haleakala: The three-month-old information station at Kipahulu was destroyed by fire on the night of October 14th, and a Park Service rifle and truck were also stolen. The truck was later recovered, but the building and its contents, which were together valued at about \$85,000, were a complete loss. It has not been determined whether the fire was arson or was caused by a burglary, since there was evidence that a safe in the building which contained several hundred dollars had apparently been broken open.

Sequoia/Kings: A ranger from another park was sexually assaulted while on a bike trip through Sequoia early in November. She was bicycling near park headquarters when she passed a pull-out where a pickup truck was parked. The occupants - two brothers in their early 20's - overtook her from behind, forced her off the road and raped her. The ranger, who is commissioned, flagged down a car, made it to a phone, and reported the incident to park dispatchers. An alert was broadcast for the two males based on the accurate information recorded by the ranger, and both were arrested twenty minutes later by Tulare sheriff's deputies.

Yosemite: Over 100 searchers, four helicopters and six dog teams were deployed in mid-October in the successful search for a 30-year-old Mike Kalantarian, who survived a week of freezing temperatures after a fall from Mount Clark. Although suffering from frostbite, several fractures and other

ailments, Kalantarian was found in fairly good shape despite having spent the entire time in the open without food, shelter or water. Ranger John Dill described his survival as incredible, and said it ranked among the more successful rescues in the park's history.

Statue of Liberty: Rangers at the statue had a busy day on October 16th. An employee of the Circle Boat Line, which carries passengers to the island, noticed a foreign national carrying what appeared to be two containers of gasoline on to the boat and notified a ranger who was on board. The ranger asked the man his intentions, and he said he intended to immolate himself upon reaching the island. The ranger confiscated the gas and contacted NYPD, who took the person into custody. That same morning an Austrian by the name of Nicholas Feteris gained access to the torch, which is normally closed to the public, and successfully parachuted down to the island. He was promptly arrested by rangers.

Colonial: A William and Mary student and a Naval Academy graduate who was a saleswoman in Virginia Beach were found murdered in a car off Colonial's parkway in mid-October. Both had had their throats cut, but were apparently first strangled. Despite extensive investigations into this case, no good leads have as yet emerged.

Biscayne: On October 6th, an off-duty US Customs officer was riding an ATV in the park when he was confronted by an armed man who told him to leave the area because he was in the process of making a cocaine deal. As the officer drove off, the man fired two shots, one of which struck the ATV. Miami Dade police responded to the scene; the park was not notified of the incident until two days later.

American Memorial: On December 3rd, the park, which is on Saipan in the Mariannas, was hit by a severe typhoon with winds in excess of 160 miles per hour. Although there were no injuries or deaths, there was extensive damage to park buildings and grounds. The entire island was without electrical and other utilities, and was expected to be without them for two to four weeks.

Funding Emergency L&O Requests

As has been noted here before, the emergency law and order account (PWE 168), which is employed once the budgeted law enforcement account is exhausted, is not a separate, base-funded account; instead, Congress has authorized the Service to reprogram money from land acquisition and state assistance accounts to fund such operations. It's important to realize, therefore, that there are land acquisition projects that lose their funding each year due to transferral of funds to 168.

The following table lists the areas from which the funds - \$1.35 million - were taken this year:

Assateague Island NS	\$29,500	Morristown NHP	\$ 3,023
Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP	1,002	Obed WSR	350,000
Colonial NHP	5,000	Picataway Park	925
Fort Necessity NB	60	Point Reyes	954,582
Moore's Creek NB	3,197	Saint-Gaudens NHS	2,709

Sign Vandalism

The Department of Transportation has an interesting new publication out entitled Manual on Countermeasures for Sign Vandalism which "describes countermeasures for reducing highway sign vandalism and the costs associated with the repair and replacement of vandalized signs." It has some good sections on constructing theft-proof signs, protecting and restoring vandalized signs, and sundry related topics. You can get a copy by contacting the Offices of Research, Development and Technology, Federal Highway Administration, HRD-11, McLean, Virginia 22101-2296. There's no charge listed.

Although it doesn't contain any statistics on the NPS, there's a section on the Forest Service which gives a clear indication of the scope of the problem on federal lands. USFS has an inventory of about 396,000 signs. In 1978, 24,000 were vandalized beyond repair. The cost to the Forest Service, including labor, travel and materials, was estimated at over \$3.25 million.

Inquiry on Grizzly Fatality at Yellowstone

On October 4th, William John Tesinsky, a part-time wildlife photographer, was killed in a confrontation with a grizzly known as Bear #59 in a meadow three miles south of the Canyon developed area in Yellowstone. A board of inquiry into the incident was held in the park two weeks later, and their final report was issued in early December. A summary of the incident and the board's findings follows.

Tesinsky, described by friends as an adept woodsman in good physical condition, was an avid and "very determined" photographer who relied on the sale of his photographs to make ends meet. He had frequently told people that he hoped to become a professional wildlife photographer, and that the only major animal in Montana that he had not photographed was a grizzly bear. "William Tesinsky appeared to be a decisive, confident individual, physically fit and very experienced in hunting and outdoor skills," the board report said. "He was determined to get some good pictures. It would be in character for him to stalk and closely approach a grizzly to obtain a photograph."

Bear #59 was first recorded in 1980, when she was captured in the Canyon area during a trapping operation for another bear. She was two years old at the time. Her frequent appearance in the Canyon residential area and apparent habituation to people led to her relocation in August of 1981. She was intermittently trapped and observed in the Antelope Creek and Canyon areas over the next five years, and was regularly attracting crowds of observing visitors just prior to the Tesinsky incident. She "displayed no aggression or even acknowledgement of people", the board report states, and appears to have been largely occupied with foraging for yampa and melica. The incident occurred, in fact, in a sizable feeding area.

Tesinsky's vehicle was first observed in the park at Cascade Meadows on the morning of October 4th, and was then seen parked in a pullout and picnic area along the Grand Loop Road three miles south of Canyon. Rangers learned on October 6th that he'd been reported missing, and discovered Bear #59 feeding on his remains the following morning. The bear was shot and killed.

The investigation which followed resulted in a reconstruction of the probable sequence of events which led to the deaths of both parties. Tesinsky had been

taking wildlife photos in the park in the morning. The apparently hasty manner in which his car was parked at the pullout and the fact that Bear #59's feeding area was largely visible from the road strongly suggested that Tesinsky had seen the bear, decided to photograph it, and pursued it from the point he'd first seen it to the location where he was killed. Physical evidence suggested "that Tesinsky attempted to closely approach the bear, set up his camera and tripod, and was charged by the bear before he could take a photograph."

"If Tesinsky approached from the lower feeding sites along the most probable route," the report says, "the bear could not have observed or smelled Tesinsky's approach until he crested the top of the hill...The specifics of the incident show a bear feeding on natural foods that was approached by a person with the bear exhibiting normal defensive behavior to an apparent close approach by the victim. She was a bear familiar with people, but despite numerous encounters, displayed no (prior) aggression toward humans."

"We believe that Bear #59's habituation (to people) allowed Mr. Tesinsky to approach," the report adds, "but that, due to his desire to get good, albeit dangerous photographs, he approached too closely and was attacked and killed."

"Management actions directed at behavior modifications resulting in mutual (short ranger) avoidance is indicated," the board said in its recommendations. "Since this is most achievable in humans, emphasis should continue to be placed on human behavior modification." The board recommended stricter enforcement of regulations and increased information to visitors - particularly photographers - on the "great personal risk" of approaching a grizzly closer than 100 yards. They also recommended efforts to reduce habituation in grizzlies and to manage grizzlies that have become habituated.

Distributing the Newsletter

The Exchange is now being folded and mailed in smaller envelopes due to in-house mailing requirements. It's also being printed on white paper so that it will reproduce better. We continue to encourage chief rangers to duplicate copies for the rangers on their staffs, or, at the very least, to post it prominently in all central and district offices.

Briefly...

A revised version of the annual search and rescue report was put together by Mike Murray of Yosemite and Bill Halainen of Ranger Activities and sent out to the regions and several SAR coordinators for comment in November....Comments on NPS-60, the aviation management guideline, have been collected by Rick Gale at Santa Monica Mountains and a final draft is being prepared for spring dissemination....The 1987 FIREPRO authorization memo from this office got lost in the works somewhere and had to be redone, which is why you didn't get it in October. It was overnighted to the regions on November 20th....Just as we were about to get under way on the planned review of SET procedures, we learned that several SET leaders in Western Region were in the midst of preparing a procedural handbook and promptly turned over the initial phases of the project to them. Rick Gale is heading this effort, and you should address any comments on the subject to him....John Chew of Shenandoah, who has been the Service's EMS coordinator and prime mover on health and fitness, has left the NPS for a position with the Department of Transportation here in D.C....