

Outline

Topic Search & Rescue Incidents on the Colorado River
Audience 2017 Guide Training Seminar
Park Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA)

Key Topics Provided

- Provide 2016 statistics and overview of GRCA's Branch of Emergency Services incident activity for the Search & Rescue (SAR) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs.
- The mission of the Branch of Emergency Services is to foster professional development and continuous learning. We advance V&RP leaders through adult education and incident support.
- Emergency Services programs at GRCA typically maintain the highest call volumes throughout the NPS system. 10-year average call volumes include:
 - SAR: 303 incidents/year
 - EMS: 1,136 incidents/year
 - Structural Fire: 73 incidents/year
 - PSAR: 28,087 preventive actions/year
 - Type-3 All-Hazard Incident Management: 3 incident or events/year
- The safety and wellbeing of our staff drives all our incident response procedures and activities. Many of our missions involve high risk operations and most of our SAR missions involve the use of aviation assets due to the topography and size of the Grand Canyon.
- Drowning to body recovery data for individuals without lifejacket will be presented for the years 1973-2016. This represents 29 incidents with an average recovery time of 15 days, located an average of 14.5 miles downstream.
- Injury and illness patterns for individuals involved in river travel down the Colorado River from 2013-2016 will be presented. This data set represents 241 incidents that GRCA took action to help resolve.
 - Of the 241 incidents in 229 of those cases an individual was medevaced via helicopter with 76 of those suffering from a medical complaint and 140 suffering a trauma complaint; 3 drownings. Injury mechanisms and injury patterns of these incidents will be presented.
- In 2016 three vessels got stuck on "big red" below Crystal Rapids. Some photos and video of these incidents will be presented to illustrate the typical flow of a recovery operation.
- Helicopter landing zone considerations will be discussed as will general SAR communications and request procedures.
- Given enough time we will discuss the latest in wound care.

Contact Person Brandon Torres, Branch Chief of Emergency Services 928-638-7792
Brandon_Torres@nps.gov