

A Search and Rescue Plan
for
Hot Springs National Park

I. Introduction and Objectives

The safety and well being of visitors, concessioners and park employees is the responsibility of the National Park Service. To assure this, the Search and Rescue Plan objectives are:

1. The protection of human life. 2. The timely location of lost persons, and 3. the prompt removal of those injured persons requiring medical assistance. To meet these objectives, the most effective resources will be used in the safest and most economic way.

This plan is ~~thorough~~ and written to conform to all the requirements set forth in the Activities Standards for Search and Rescue Operations.

Reports of lost persons in Hot Springs National Park should be taken seriously and handled accordingly. Although the past history of lost or missing persons here is one of subjects simply not showing up at appointed time, separated parties, etc., this should not influence the person receiving notice of a lost person to the point of not showing concern. Response should be professional and effective.

II. Priorities

- A. A search and rescue operation in which the personal safety of the lost person is threatened will take priority over other management activities except other more serious life threatening emergencies.
- B. Except in life and death situations, the highest regard will be given to protecting the parks' natural and cultural resources. Under no circumstances will pure convenience dictate the destruction of any of those resources.

III. Responsibilities

- A. The Supervisory Park Ranger is responsible for maintaining this plan, updating it as the need arises and insuring that its contents are understood by all pertinent personnel.
- B. The Park Superintendent has overall responsibility for the entire search and rescue operation.
- C. The Chief Park Ranger will be in charge of the field operations. The order of those to be in charge should he be absent will be 1. Supervisory Park Ranger 2. Ranger with the most experience in search and rescue operations, and 3. Ranger receiving notice of the need of a search.

- D. The Ranger in charge of field operations will insure that the Park Superintendent is appraised of the situation and kept up to date on its progress.
- E. The Resource Technician will insure that all necessary equipment is in a state of constant readiness and that adequate supplies are maintained for the types of search expected in the park.
- F. Each involved searcher will make every effort to locate missing persons and offer or provide for the best medical attention.
- G. The Park Superintendent will determine the need for outside the park assistance and will make contacts as that need arises.
- H. The Management Assistant will be responsible for coordinating relations with the press should the need arise.
- I. The Park Superintendent will assign responsibility to someone to act as intermediary between Search Boss (Field Operations) and the family or friends of the lost person.
- J. The Park Superintendent will have the authority to terminate the search when he feels every possible effort has been made to locate the missing person.

IV. First Notice

A. Report of Missing Person by Phone

All reports of lost or missing persons made by phone to Park Headquarters should be handled by the Chief Ranger or the next in command as stated in "Responsibilities". After explanation of the situation by the caller the Chief Park Ranger will judge the necessity of a search. Should he feel that a search be initiated, the following steps should be taken: 1. An effort should be made to calm the fears of the friend or family member making the call by informing them of the parks' non-hazardous terrain and the fact that a short walk in any direction will bring one to the city or a main highway. 2. Record the following data:

- a. Name of Caller
- b. His/Her location
- c. Place he can be contacted and phone number
- d. His/Her relationship to the lost or missing person
- e. Name of lost person
- f. Physical description
- g. Physical condition
- h. Mental State
- i. Where last seen and direction headed
- j. Destination

k. Any other info that the Chief Ranger feels pertinent

3. The Chief Park Ranger will then deploy men and/or equipment to initiate the search.

B. Report made in Person

Persons coming to the park headquarters building to report a lost or missing person should be directed to the desk of the Chief Park Ranger. If the Chief Park Ranger determines the need for a search from the information given him by the informer the following steps should be taken:

1. Step #1 of Part A. (Report of Missing Person by Phone)
2. Record the following information:
 - a. Name of informer
 - b. information c through k of list in Part A. (Report of Missing Person by phone)

C. Report of Lost or Missing Person to Field Personnel

If notice of a lost or missing person is given to field personnel (i.e. Maintenance person), that person receiving notice should immediately contact the on duty Ranger by radio. 2. Remain with the person who made the report until On-Duty Ranger arrives at scene.

The Ranger arriving at the scene will follow Steps #1 and 2 of IV B., then report to Park Headquarters all that has transpired. Determination of the need to initiate a search will be made by Chief Ranger or his next in command at Park Headquarters.

V. The Search

A. Upon determining the need for a search the Chief Ranger will:

1. Deploy men and/or equipment as necessary
2. Inform the Park Superintendent that a search has been initiated
3. Begin logging all pertinent information or assign someone to do so.

B. Expanded Searches

At the time it becomes obvious that the present search operation is not sufficient to locate the lost or missing person,

1. The Park Superintendent will determine those outside-the-park contacts considered necessary to intensify search, and arrangements will be made to coordinate efforts.

2. The Supervisory Ranger will coordinate shifts of Park employees working on the search and see that their needs are provided for (new equipment, clothing, food, coffee, etc.)
3. Close contact will be maintained with the family or friends of the lost or missing person and every effort will be made to insure their comfort.

VI. Rescue and Evacuation:

Steps followed upon the location of lost or missing person are:

- A. Person found in good condition
 1. Immediate contact with all searching units that subject has been located.
 2. Transport of subject to Park Headquarters or to location of waiting family and friends.
 3. Termination of search efforts.
- B. Person found in injured condition
 1. Notify searching units that subject has been located.
 2. Arrangements to transport a litter or the proper emergency medical personnel to the scene will be made.
 3. Removal of injured person in litter by Rangers or the proper medical personnel will take place.
 4. Transport of injured person to appropriate medical facility by most effective means.
 5. Termination of search efforts.
- C. Person found dead
 1. Immediate contact with all searching units that subject has been located.
 2. Notification of county coroner prior to removal of body.
 3. Termination of search efforts.

VII. Termination of Search

The search operation will be terminated when:

1. The subject has been located.
2. The Park Superintendent feels that all efforts have been made and further search is futile.

VIII. Documentation and Reporting

1. A detailed log with all pertinent information will be kept during the entire search.
2. Appropriate forms will be completed for our files and for Region.

IX. Critique

1. Once search efforts have been terminated, or as the need arises during a search, time shall be provided to discuss the progress of the mission.
 - A. Progress of mission (during search)
 - B. Good and bad points of field search effort
 - C. Changes to be made for future searches
 - D. Preventative measures to eliminate the need for this type of search in the future.

[illegible]

List of Skills

NAME	First Aid	SAR	Foreign Language	Scuba	Trapping	Technical Climbing	Tracking	Mapping	Poating	Compass Skills	Other	*
Pinkston	P		P*				SP	SP		SP		Spanish, German
Ragsdale	SP*	SP*				SP						Classroom
Rogers	SP*								SP			Classroom
Shampine	P	P						SP	VP	P		
Smith, M.	SP*								SP			Classroom
Smith, V.	SP*								SP			Classroom
Terry	P	P				SP			VP			
Walker	SP											
Woodson	P	P			SP	SP	SP	P	VP	P		

SEARCH RESOURCES OF HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK

1. Fourteen trained searchers, each capable of leading a small search group.
2. Fourteen radios for above search crew, NPS frequency.
3. Six radios capable of transmitting and receiving on both Sheriff and City Police frequencies.
4. Three law enforcement equipped patrol vehicles, equipped with NPS, Sheriff, and City Police radio communication.
5. Six trained and qualified law enforcement officers.
6. One four wheel drive pumper unit with radio communication.
7. Two litters
8. Various Rescue Gear
 - a. Sling webbing
 - b. Carabiners
 - c. Climbing rope
9. Various Fire Equipment related to Search
 - a. 100 emergency rations
 - b. 50 individual canteens
 - c. 50 individual head lamps with batteries
 - d. 50 hard hats
 - e. 50 pairs of gloves
 - f. 50 fire shirts, yellow
 - g. 50 pairs of fire pants
 - h. 25 individual first aid kits
 - i. 6-24 unit first aid kits
 - j. 4 -5 gal. H₂O Coolers
 - k. 4 backboards
10. One Scuba diver, fully equipped and trained in underwater search techniques. PADI Asst. Instructor.
11. Six law enforcement officers trained in advanced first aid and CPR. One is a qualified Advanced First Aid Instructor.

SEARCH RESOURCES

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

1. Detailed knowledge of area lakes, streams, and land statewide.
2. Statewide radio system, includes county radios.
3. Boats on or near lakes, rivers statewide.

Arkansas State Parks

1. Equipment (boats, trucks, tractors, etc.)
2. Personnel
3. Radio communications (statewide)
4. Trained personnel in EMT, First Aid, Law Enforcement, Mountain Rescue (Petit Jean, Pinnacle, Devils Den)

Corps of Engineers, DeGray and Ouachita Lakes

1. 3 boats (two 20' boats capable of taking rough water and with adequate design for use or work boats)
2. Four wheel drive vehicle
3. Topographic maps of projects and adjacent lands.
4. Aerial photographs of project lands.
5. Manpower, varies by season