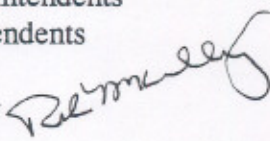


DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

May 28, 1999

STAFF DIRECTIVE 99-8

TO: Superintendent of State Parks
Parks Chief Ranger
District Superintendents
Park Superintendents

FROM: Phil McKnelly 

SUBJECT: Search and Rescue (SAR) Guideline

I am pleased to issue the attached is *Search and Rescue Guideline*, Number 29. This document represents several years of collaborative effort by many superintendents and rangers working with the Parks Chief Ranger and several state and national authorities on the subject. These guidelines establish professional training standards for all staff whose duties include responding to lost or injured visitor incidents. Further, these guidelines set forth policies and procedures for working with other agencies in planning for and carrying out a wide variety of potential search missions within and outside of our parks.

Our expanded training program has accomplished the minimum training requirements set forth in these guidelines for Managing the Lost Person Incident. All Superintendents are now fully trained to perform the responsibilities set forth in these guidelines. Other staff will be trained in upcoming courses. All parks are encouraged to complete the SAR preplan as soon as possible. The Search and Rescue Management Advisory Council will be appointed in the near future. Please let the Parks Chief Ranger know if you or your staff are interested in serving on this internal technical advisory group.

As stated in our policy, the saving of human life takes priority above all other park operations. Implementation of these guidelines will assure our visitors that we are prepared and capable of making all reasonable efforts to find the lost and render assistance to the injured.

PKM/gsr

Attachment