

# Summary Report from Division Safety Council

*JS*  
2/13/12

Division: NC Parks And Recreation		For Month/Year: 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2011
Safety Council Chairman Signature	Darrin Oliver	

Committee Name	Date	Incident/Audit Brief Description of Activity	Abatement Date	Corrective Actions taken and status	Comments
SOHC / Accident and audit review Subcommittee	Dec.2, 2011	Meeting location Haw River State Park See report included		Audits and accidents reviewed information included in report included with this report	
EADI Safety / Off the job safety Subcommittee		Due to required division training no formal district safety meeting scheduled for fourth quarter numerous First Responder training classes held in each district All issues pertaining to safety communicated directly to parks.			
WEDI Safety / Policy and procedure Subcommittee		"			
NODI Safety / New equipment review Subcommittee		"			
SODI Safety / Special activities Subcommittee		"			

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Safety Council Meeting  
Haw River State Park  
December 2, 2011

In attendance: Division Safety Officer Yancy King, Park Superintendent Kelley Thompson, Division Biologist Emily Hill, Maintenance Mechanic Darrin Oliver, Park Ranger Bryan Cox, District Superintendent Tom Jackson. By phone: Park Ranger David Brown, Park Ranger Joel Jakobowski, Maintenance Mechanic Alvin Barnwell

Meeting began at 11 a.m.

Darrin read the minutes from June meeting. Approved as is.

**Old Business**

**SAR**

Tom reported that Chief of Operations Mike Lambert has spoken with the President of the Friends of State Parks, David Pearson, in regards to funding the purchase of SAR backpacks for each park. Pearson is going to contact Great Outdoor Provision Company to see if they are interested in assisting state parks with this purchase. Tom will check with Pearson to see if there has been any progress with this project.

Kelley asked if it will be up to individual parks to make sure the pack is equipped with items needed. Tom mentioned how each park is different and the packs would need to be equipped geographically. We may suggest using next year's equipment money if the Friends aren't able to get funding for the packs.

We need to send out an email survey to parks to determine which ones currently have packs and which are in need.

**Drinking Water Hydrants**

Tom asked if Facility Maintenance Manager Jerry Howerton had come up with a cost yet on replacement drinking water hydrants for park campgrounds. The thought is that they are about \$500 to replace the current hydrants with the new hydrants which is being required by the Department of Insurance. Currently DOI is not requiring parks to pull out existing hydrants, but if a hydrant is to be replaced, the new hydrant is required. Bryan Cox added that Jordan Lake SRA alone has approximately 750 hydrants.

**Fire Extinguisher Inspections**

Tom asked what it would take to get park division staff certified as a fire extinguisher inspector as required by the Department of Insurance. In the past we have only needed to be qualified, we now have to have someone who is certified do the annual inspections.

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Yancy is looking at getting 12 or so division staff certified. They won't need any equipment to get certified, but the division will need to purchase the equipment needed to inspect each extinguisher. With the outfit, we would be able to do the six-year recharge and 12-year hydrostatic tests on each extinguisher. Currently, most parks replace extinguishers instead of paying for them to be recharged. This typically costs the division \$8000 per year in replacement costs. Yancy is working with Mike Lambert on this project.

David asked when was the best time to get our current extinguishers inspected. Yancy suggested in December to allow the division a year's leeway so we can get this put into place. Since there is a lot of equipment that is required, Yancy is hoping to get a trailer set up to take it around to all the parks. Some parks have used outside vendors for their annual inspections costing from \$400 to \$500 a year. At 40 parks, that would save us \$20,000 dollars a year. Yancy added that Jordan Lake SRA just surplused over 140 fire extinguishers that could have been serviced and put back into use without being thrown away.

Tom asked Alvin who takes care of the concession extinguishers at Chimney Rock. They are handled by an outside vendor.

#### **Overhead Team**

Yancy reported that Emergency Management has posted classes online that would assist with training our overhead teams. There is an Operations Section class coming up in January/February. They are being held in Murphy and would require an overnight stay, but EM pays for the class and providing a per diem. He will be sending out an email to the division for those who are interested in taking the class.

Yancy asked if Tom had heard anything on the new 800 MHz radios being distributed to the parks. Tom reported that Parks Chief Ranger Bryan Dowdy is still having issues with several locations in the state not yet wanting to work with state parks. Only a few parks have the new radios and Dowdy is pushing to get all parks online soon. Most parks will have to have two radios since the division can't supply an 800 MHz radio for all staff.

#### **CPR Certification**

Yancy reported that Randolph County Community College would set the division up as a training site for \$250. The instructors fee for each instructor will be \$25 every two years to teach CPR for division personnel. In order for staff to be certified through American Heart Association, they would need to attend a one day class through AHA and another for the college training center. Lastly, they will have to teach a class with Yancy auditing. We are looking into this because the cost of American Red Cross has gone up drastically - \$19 for recerts and \$27 for new certs. For Haw River State Park staff alone, it will cost over \$1000 to get park staff certified.

#### **DOL Inspections**

Joel had to leave since their DOL inspector had just showed up. Bryan Cox reported that they had been inspected last month. They were written up for not having GFI outlets, and several other bad connections in wiring. They also had an abandoned well where rats had made nests and left exposed wires.

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Yancy reported faulty GFI outlets are one of the items where most parks are being written up on. He said that there were lots of good reports from the inspections but where there were are corrective actions needed, the parks need to let the inspector know when the actions had taken place so they can remove these from their reports.

#### **ATV/UTV Training**

Yancy mentioned that the Blueridge Community College offers a hands-on training for ATV/UTV's. This is the type of training he has been trying to set up for state parks. He found that Surry County also has this type of training.

#### **Tick Bourne Illness Study**

There are additional meetings set up in the next month or so – info will be sent out soon. Anyone can sign up for the next cycle.

### **New Business**

#### **Lighting**

Darrin reported that the t12 lights all parks have in their facilities will be discontinued starting in July, 2012. This means all of the fixtures will have to be replaced with smaller t8s. Since t12 bulbs will be discontinued in June, 2012, parks should look at the cost of replacing all fixtures and add this to their equipment request for next year.

#### **Shake and Bake Labs**

Bryan Cox reported that Park Ranger Amanda Lasley attended a course at Wake Technical Community College on identifying Shake and Bake Meth Labs. These are "to go" labs dealers are setting up in parks and wooded areas. Both Bryan and Joel have found these labs in their parks and had to call in a hazardous materials team to dispose of them. Joel contacted the SBI and had to sit on the site until their Haz-mat team arrived.

Bryan said that this is crucial for all park employees to be able to identify since the labs look mostly like a trash pile. They are volatile and have extremely hazardous materials inside 2 liter coke bottles. Tom asked if there were classes we can offer and Yancy reported that EM is offering these type courses at various locations throughout the state. He said that it's a four hour class that covers chemical suicide and Shake and Bake labs. He will send out info to the parks about upcoming courses. Kelley also mentioned contacting local sheriff's departments to see what trainings they are offering.

No other new business.

#### **Accidents in parks**

- Car backing incidences
- Equipment damaged
- incidences with Zero Turn mowers (Special information sent to all parks)

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- Lake James State Park had a bad accident – seasonal employee was stabbed by a stick kicked up by the mower.
  - We need to make sure all park employees using Zero Turn mowers are trained correctly. The accidents occur when the front wheels lose traction on steep inclines. Once they lose traction, control of the equipment is lost.
- Black widow bite – spider bites
- Treated for mange
- Electrical shock – (proper lock out/tag out needs to be checked)
- Slips, strains,
- Smashed hand between gate
- ATV – a ranger doing search late at night. Rolled and hit his head. Make sure helmets are worn. Emily asked if anyone in the division can drive the ATV? As long as you are checked off on it, you can drive it.
- Send in 1<sup>st</sup> aid only paperwork to Yancy and Human Resources – this includes all forms required for workers comp
- Bryan reported that they had a back injury at Jordan Lake SRA and when he contacted Teresa McCall with HR, he was told that back or head injuries need to be seen no matter what the extent of injury
- Tom feels this need to get this out to the parks. Yancy will check with Teresa on this.

### **Fatalities**

- To date there have been ten fatalities in or near state park property. Three were on neighboring properties that our staff assisted with – Gorges State Park assisted with a high angle rescue on private property.
- There were three over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend – Lake Norman State Park - drowning in swim area; fall at Stone Mountain State Park when the person tried to cross the top of fall; Chimney Rock had a fall on neighboring Nature Conservancy property.
- Late June – Fall at South Mountain State Park where they crossed over several barriers to get to the edge of the fall.
- White Lake State Lake male drowning
- Gunshot/suicide at Falls Lake SRA

### **Visitor Accidents**

Jockey's Ridge State Park – hang gliding accidents, heat issues, falls  
 Jones Lake State Park – near drowning  
 Fort Fisher SRA – near drowning  
 Jordan Lake SRA – a tree limb fell off and hit a park visitor  
 Crowders Mountain State Park – fall at climbing wall – facial injuries – unconscious for a bit – wasn't wearing a helmet  
 White Lake 18yo male broke neck diving into shallow water paralyzed chest down.

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Secretary's Safety Committee Acknowledgment

Date Reviewed:

Signature:

*Markel Smith* 2/12/12

## Safety Council Comments/Recommendations

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