



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

**REPLY TO :** NWCG@nifc.gov

**DATE :** 03/15/2010

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY BULLETIN : 24 and 72 Hour Reports - National Park Service, New River Gorge Work Capacity Test



NERI 24 Hour Report.doc NERI 72 hour report.doc

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## **PRELIMINARY (24-HOUR) REPORT, NON-SERIOUS ACCIDENT**

**FROM:** Bruce Miller, FMO, New River Gorge National River,

**TO:** Tom Nichols, Chief of Fire and Aviation Management  
Bill Kaage, Branch Chief, Wildland Fire  
Chad Fisher, Fire Safety and Prevention Program Manager  
Dan Buckley, National Wildland Fire Operations Program Lead  
Doug Wallner, NER, Fire Management Officer  
Mark Musitano, NER Wildland Fire Operations Specialist  
Don Striker, Superintendent, NERI  
Deborah Darden, Deputy Superintendent, NERI

### **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**LOCATION:** Oak Hill High School Track, Oak Hill, WV

**DATE OF OCCURRENCE:** March 12, 2010

**TIME OF OCCURRENCE:** Approximately 11:00 AM EST

**TEAM LEADER (POSITION):** Bruce Miller, Fire Management Officer

**ACTIVITY:** Work Capacity Test

**NUMBER & TYPE OF INJURIES:** 1, Cardiac Arrest

#### **NARRATIVE:**

On March 12, 2010 at approx 1100 hours, 22 people were taking the arduous duty Work Capacity Test (WCT) at Oak Hill High School in Oak Hill, WV.

The WCT was scheduled to begin about 1000 hours that morning and was being administered by Park personnel. Prior to the WCT, all participants completed and turned in a Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ). All participants also reviewed and signed a WCT Job Hazard Analysis (JHA). The scheduled local ambulance service arrived 15 minutes late and the EMS staff was briefed and the WCT started soon afterwards. Weather was cool about 60 degrees with light wind and mostly sunny.

By 1100 hours, most participants had completed the test and were walking recovery laps around the track. A few participants were still completing the test and were walking their final lap.

A group of participants were walking a recovery lap about 40 yards behind two individuals who were conversing with each other on their final lap. Nearly at the same

time, the group saw one of the individuals finishing the WCT lying on the grassy infield on his side with his pack still on. They ran to the individual on the ground, rolled them to their back and removed the pack. One of the responders requested the EMS unit on scene to respond. The injured individual was unresponsive with labored breathing. Their eyes were fixed and pupils were constricted. Emergency life-saving techniques were used during the treatment by Park employees and the EMS crew. CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) were utilized. A request was made for a helicopter life flight.

The individual regained consciousness and became active and verbal with rescuers. After further assessment the individual was taken to the awaiting ambulance and was placed inside and transported to a local hospital. The individual was later transferred to a Regional Hospital and at this time his condition continues to improve.

**IMMEDIATE LESSONS FOR DISTRIBUTION: It is strongly advised to have a staffed EMS Unit with an AED on site during the WCT. It is believed that had not an AED and EMS Unit been on site this employee may not have been revived.**

**SUBMITTED BY: Bruce Miller**

**EXPANDED (72-HOUR) REPORT, NON-SERIOUS  
ACCIDENT**



**National Park Service**  
**New River Gorge National River**  
**Incident Date: March 12, 2010**

## **EXPANDED (72-HOUR) REPORT, NON-SERIOUS ACCIDENT**

**FROM:** Frank Sellers, Team Leader, District Ranger, New River Gorge National River,  
Randy Fisher, Park Ranger (Law Enforcement) New River Gorge National River  
Mike Hartsog, Park Safety Officer, New River Gorge National River

**TO:** Tom Nichols, Chief of Fire and Aviation Management  
Bill Kaage, Branch Chief, Wildland Fire  
Chad Fisher, Fire Safety and Prevention Program Manager  
Dan Buckley, National Wildland Fire Operations Program Lead  
Doug Wallner, NER, Fire Management Officer  
Mark Musitano, NER Wildland Fire Operations Specialist  
Don Striker, Superintendent, NERI  
Deborah Darden, Deputy Superintendent, NERI  
Bruce Miller, Fire Management Officer, NERI

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**LOCATION: Oak Hill High School Track, Oak Hill, WV**

**DATE OF OCCURRENCE: March 12, 2010**

**TIME OF OCCURRENCE: Approximately 11:00 AM EST**

**TEAM LEADER (POSITION): Frank Sellers**

**ACTIVITY: Work Capacity Test**

**NUMBER & TYPE OF INJURIES: 1, Cardiac related medical emergency**

### **NARRATIVE:**

On March 12, 2010 at approx 1100 hours, 22 people were taking the arduous duty Work Capacity Test (WCT) at Oak Hill High School in Oak Hill, WV. Investigative team leader Frank Sellers and Ranger Randy Fisher have completed a preliminary investigation and continue to investigate the events leading up to the incident and after actions taken. These findings are preliminary and are subject to change due to the ongoing investigation.

## **SUBJECTIVE**

46 year old male, NPS employee, fell to the ground during the work capacity test (WCT). EMTs and first responders were immediately on scene and determined the patient was unresponsive. Witnesses to the incident explained the patient drifted off the fitness track and appeared to lie down on his side in the grass. He did not appear to have fallen hard or hit his head.

## **OBJECTIVE**

Medical scene/treatment: After determining the patient had no pulse Ranger #1 began chest compressions and Ranger #2 administered ventilations through a pocket mask. WCT pre-positioned on scene ambulance arrived at the site of the incident and hooked up an AED. The AED advised a shock and one was administered. Ventilations were then provided by a bag valve mask. Ranger 3 began to see the patient breathe on his own and administered high flow oxygen via non-rebreather mask. The patient began to move his legs then began to gain consciousness. The patient was disoriented as he gained consciousness then became responsive to questions and began to talk about the event that took place. Patient was placed on a backboard and gurney and loaded into the ambulance. Patient was transported by ambulance to a local hospital and was later transferred to a regional hospital. Currently the patient is in an ICU cardiac care unit undergoing further testing and the prognosis is favorable.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Cardiac related medical emergency

### **Actions Taken;**

- 1) CPR (compressions and ventilations)
- 2) Hook up AED
- 3) Administer shock as advised by AED
- 4) Administer high flow oxygen
- 5) Ambulance transport (ALS)

**Current actions being taken:** Reviewing WCT JHA and Health Screening Questionnaires. Home unit will continue to ensure NPS medical standards are current. These actions will be taken prior to the home unit administering a WCT scheduled for late March. Home unit will continue fire management's policy of scheduling an EMS unit to be on site throughout the WCT.