



## GUARDAPARQUE

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### **Law Enforcement And Emergency Services**

#### **United States – Gulf Coast National Parks/Wildlife Refuges Response To Major Gulf Of Mexico Oil Spill Continues**

*Summary/Resumen:* More than 800 US National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service employees are now working along the Gulf Coast, cleaning-up oil from the spill and engaging in related operations./ Más de 800 empleados del Servicio Nacional de Parques y el Buró de Pesca y Vida Silvestre ahora están trabajando en la costa de Golfo de México tratando de limpiar el petroleo del derrame.

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Over 800 people from the National Park Service and from the Fish and Wildlife Service are currently working in parks and wildlife refuges located along the Gulf of Mexico, attempting to keep the oil from shore, cleaning it up, or assessing the damage it has caused. About fifteen such areas are currently or could soon be affected. So far, the impacts have not been too serious, but it's only a matter of time until significant amounts of oil begin coming ashore.

The overall response has been extraordinary in scope. The 700 NPS and FWS employee involved in the operation represent only a small percent of the more than 24,000 people currently committed to this effort. The government has also authorized 17,500 National Guard troops from Gulf Coast states to participate in the response. More than 3,500 vessels are responding on site, including skimmers, tugs, barges, and recovery vessels to assist in containment and cleanup efforts – in addition to dozens of aircraft, remotely operated vehicles, and multiple mobile offshore drilling units.

Approximately 2.25 million feet of containment boom and 2.55 million feet of sorbent boom have been deployed to contain the spill, and approximately 670,000 feet of containment boom and 2.38 million feet of sorbent boom are still available.

Source: National Park Service Morning Report.

**England – Lake District National Park  
Four Hikers Struck By Lightning From Same Storm**

*Summary/Resumen:* A series of lightning strikes in the park injured four people in three different locations on the same day./Una serie de relámpagos en el parque lastimó a cuatro personas en tres localidades diferentes.

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A series of lightning strikes across the Lake District on May 26th sparked a dramatic series of mountain rescues by the crew of a Royal Navy helicopter. Four hill walkers in three different locations were airlifted to a hospital following an electric storm in the national park. The helicopter, from *HMS Gannet* at Prestwick, Scotland, had initially been called to a separate incident involving a man with a suspected shoulder injury.

But by mid-afternoon, as reports of lightning emerged, the helicopter was dispatched to instead help a hiker who had been struck at Grasmoor. Within 35 minutes, they had been called out to two other hillside locations – Crag Hill and Whiteless Pike – and rescued three more victims of lightning. All the casualties were dropped off at Buttermere Hotel in Buttermere, where they were then taken by ambulance to West Cumberland Hospital. It appears that none of the four was seriously injured. Mountain rescue teams from Cockermouth and Keswick also assisted in the rescue operation.

Source: *The Daily Mail*, United Kingdom

**United States – Yellowstone National Park  
Nine Visitors Injured By Lightning Strike At Old Faithful**

*Summary/Resumen:* Nine visitors were injured at the same time when struck by a single bolt of lightning near Old Faithful geyser./ 9 visitantes fueron heridos al mismo tiempo por un relámpago cerca de Old Faithful, el geiser más famoso en Yellowstone.

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Nine park visitors were injured at the same time when they were struck by lightning. All were on the boardwalk or on walkways around Old Faithful Geyser when a small thunderstorm cell produced a single lightning bolt. Park staff immediately converged on the scene of the strike and began to treat the injured. Bystanders had started CPR on a 57-year-old man who was conscious and breathing when rangers arrived. He was taken to the Old Faithful Clinic, and then transported by helicopter to a hospital in Idaho Falls.

An 18-year-old man complained of shortness of breath. He was also taken by ambulance to the Old Faithful Clinic, where we has treated and released. Six others with minor injuries had gathered next to the building under an overhang to get out of the rain and hail which was coming down at the time. They had various complaints of shortness of breath, tingling, or numbness. They were all taken to the Old Faithful Clinic, where they were treated and released.

A ninth individual walked into the Old Faithful Ranger Station and reported being struck by lightning, but did not seek medical attention. Hundreds of visitors witnessed the incident, as they were awaiting the next eruption of the famous geyser.

Source: National Park Service Morning Report

**United States – Yellowstone National Park**  
**Two Men Die In Late Season Ice Climbing Attempt**

*Summary/Resumen:* Two men were killed while attempting to climb the ice on a frozen waterfall in the park in late May./ 2 alpinistas murieron durante un intento de escalar un salto congelado en el parque en mayo.

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Two Montana men died while ice climbing a frozen waterfall in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone in late May. The victims were Mark Ehrich, 28, and Michael Kelch, 29. The men reportedly had several years of ice and mountain climbing experience. Friends of the two men contacted the park on Monday, May 24th, to report that the pair had left Sunday for a day hike from Artist Point and had not returned. It was later discovered the two men had actually arrived in the park on Saturday and intended to ice climb Silver Cord Cascade. This series of waterfalls begins at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, northeast of Artist Point, dropping several hundred feet to the canyon floor and into the Yellowstone River. Members of the park's technical rescue team, the wildland fire crew, three climbing rangers from Grand Teton National Park, and a helicopter were all involved in the rescue and recovery effort. A rescue team member rappelled into the canyon as darkness fell Monday evening and found the two dead on a rock ledge. Initial observations of the scene and gear configuration indicate that the fall was likely due to collapse of the ice column during the men's ascent. The accident remains under investigation.

All hiking and climbing in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is prohibited from Brink of the Upper Falls downriver to, but not including, the Silver Cord Cascade drainage. Rangers believe climbers attempt Silver Cord Cascade one to three times a year. These were the first accident fatalities in Yellowstone since a drowning in the southwest corner of the park last September.

Source: National Park Service Morning Report

**Ghana – Bia National Park**  
**Four Shot In Confrontation Between Wildlife Officers and Residents**

*Summary/Resumen:* Four people sustained gunshot wounds when officials of the wildlife division in charge of Bia National Park and some residents of the area clashed over collecting snails in the reserve./ 4 personas fueron heridas por balas durante una confrontación entre oficiales del parque y residentes locales sobre la recolección de caracoles.

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Four people sustained gunshot wounds when officials of the wildlife division in charge of Bia National Park at Adwoafua in the Western Region and some residents of the area clashed over collecting snails in the reserve. The victims were admitted to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi. No arrests have been made. Military and police personnel from Sefwi Wiaso have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

A misunderstanding between the residents and the wildlife officials over the refusal by the latter to allow the inhabitants to enter the reserve to look for snails led to the clash. Properties – including eight staff bungalows of the division and personal belongings running into millions of Ghana cedis – were destroyed by the angry youth. The youth were alleged to have also subjected the wildlife officials to severe beatings during the clash. An eyewitness told the Ghana News Agency (GNA) that an AK 47 rifle went off and hit the victims when some of the angry youth attempted to disarm an official of the division.

An official of the division told the GNA that the action by the youth was the second of such attacks on personnel. In the first incident, he said, the youth seized an AK 47 rifle belonging to one of the game officers.

Source: Ghana News Agency, via the Accra Daily Mail

## **United States – Denali National Park Three Climbers Killed In Two Separate Accidents**

*Summary/Resumen:* Two climbers were killed in an avalanche and another fell to his death while climbing on Mount McKinley in past weeks. / 2 alpinistas murieron en una avalancha y uno más se cayó a su muerte durante intentos de escalar Mt. McKinley.

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Three climbers have been killed on Mount McKinley, North America's highest mountain (6,194 meters), in two separate accidents. Two climbers were killed in an avalanche in Ruth Gorge on the afternoon of Saturday, May 29th. Canadian Andrew Herzenberg, 39, and Israeli Avner Magen, 42, both residents of Toronto, Ontario, were descending a steep snow and ice gully wedged between Werewolf Tower and London Tower on the southeast side of the gorge when the avalanche occurred.

Then, on June 7th, a 27-year-old Belgian mountaineer was killed in a fall while climbing Cassin Ridge. Joris Van Reeth of Borgerhout, Belgium, was leading a highly technical section of the route known as the Japanese Couloir when his anchor appeared to fail and he fell 100 feet in rocky terrain. The mountain is extremely popular with climbers, and the climbing season there is now at its peak. On May 27th, there were 452 mountaineers climbing Mt. McKinley. So far this season, 165 climbers have completed their expeditions, 39% of whom reached the mountain's summit.

Source: National Park Service Morning Report

## **Mount Rainier NP Ten Climbers Rescued, One Missing Following Avalanche**

*Summary/Resumen:* Eleven climbers were caught in an avalanche on the upper Ingraham Glacier. Ten were rescued, but one is missing. / 11 alpinistas fueron capturados por un avalancha. Rescataron a diez pero el otro todavía no ha sido encontrado.

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Eleven climbers were caught in an avalanche on the upper Ingraham Glacier early on the morning of June 5th during a summit attempt. Climbers in the area and several involved in the avalanche extricated ten of the eleven people. Two victims were airlifted in a US Army helicopter to a local hospital. The missing climber was solo climbing and had not registered for his climb. The slab avalanche began at 12,500 feet and continued down to 11,200 feet. It was one to two meters deep and from 100 to 200 yards wide. After the initial rescue efforts were completed, the ground search was suspended due to high avalanche danger. The park then conducted an air search without locating the missing climber. He has yet to be found.

Source: National Park Service Morning Report

## **Species Management**

### **Republic of South Africa – Kruger National Park Rhino Poaching Escalates Throughout Country**

*Summary/Resumen:* Rhino poaching has escalated greatly in the park and throughout the country since the beginning of the year – over 90 have been killed, with Kruger NP losing 33. / La caza furtiva de los rinocerontes se ha incrementado mucho y más de 90 han sido cazado. El Parque Nacional Kruger ha perdido a 33.

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According to a statement released late last month by SANParks, the South African national park authority, rhino poaching throughout the country has escalated at an alarming rate since the beginning of the year.

To date South Africa has lost 92 rhinos, with Kruger National Park being the hardest hit in terms of numbers at 33, followed by the North West Province at 18 and 12 from the Gauteng Province. The least hit province has been the Eastern Cape Province with two rhinos. The provinces' protected areas altogether lost 32 rhinos, while the private sector lost 27 rhinos. In total four black rhinos were also lost to this scourge.

Kruger National Park is home to approximately 9,000 to 12,000 white rhinos of the population of approximately 19,000 animals and between 580 and 650 black rhinos of the estimated countrywide population of 1,670 black rhinos. The other national parks with rhino populations collectively have an estimated 124 white rhinos and 107 black rhinos collectively.

South Africa has seen an escalating assault on its rhino populations in the last three years, with the first alarming spike having been experienced in 2008 with the loss of 83 rhinos, a sharp rise from the mere 13 rhinos lost the previous year. South Africa lost a further 122 rhinos in 2009. Thus far 25 suspected poachers have been arrested, with 17 having been arrested in the Kruger NP.

"Rhinos are under siege from marauding poachers all over the world. Asia and India are suffering the same trend of these species being driven to near extinction through poaching," said Dr David Mabunda, chief executive officer at SANParks.

In response to the problem, South Africa has set up a National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit (NWCPU) intended to deal with all environmental crimes. This unit consists of the South African Police Service (SAPS) Organized Crime Unit, SANParks Environmental Crime Unit, the Provincial Conservation Anti-Poaching Unit and prosecutors at the national and provincial level. The unit will function with extended powers to fast track successful prosecution of suspects.

"We are dealing here with organized crime and hardened criminals linked to notorious syndicates that the SAPS and Interpol are also looking for," said Mabunda. "We know that our combined efforts will reap fruitful results in the near future and SANParks stays committed to making every effort to wipe-out this assault that is threatening our natural heritage."

Source: SANParks news release

### **Zimbabwe – Gonarezou National Park Poachers Kill Ten Elephants**

*Summary/Resumen:* Poachers have killed 10 elephants in a game park in southern Zimbabwe – the largest number of elephants to have been killed at one time in years./ Los cazadores furtivos han matado a 10 elefantes en un parque en el sur de Zimbabwe, el número más grande matado en años.

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Poachers have killed 10 elephants in a game park in southern Zimbabwe – the largest number of elephants to have been killed at one time in years. Zimbabwe has one of the largest populations of elephants in Africa, but poaching is taking its toll on the species, as well as on endangered animals like the black rhino.

The 10 elephants were found dead and with their tusks removed along a dry river bed in the remote Gonarezou National Park in south-east Zimbabwe. Several spent cartridges from an FN rifle were also found on the scene. The tusks were removed in what appeared to be a well organized professional job. Park staff, police and national intelligence officers are investigating the incident. A reward of \$1,000 US for information on the case has been posted.

Source: Independent Online, South Africa

## **Canada – Jasper National Park Park Officials Get Tough On People Feeding Bears**

*Summary/Resumen:* The park has seen an increase in visitors feeding bears – a very dangerous practice – and has increased its enforcement efforts. / El número de visitantes que dan a comer a los osos—algo muy peligroso—ha incrementado en este año y los guardaparques están implementando las tácticas para que respeten las normas del parque.

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Jasper National Park officials are cracking down on visitors who are feeding its black bears and grizzlies because the wild animals can become aggressive and attack humans. Six incidents of bear feeding have been reported since May 24th.

While “Don't Feed the Bears” signs have been up in the park for more than 50 years, warden supervisor Jim Mamalis said the park is noticing an increase in bear feedings. The park reported two bear-feeding incidents last year in Jasper, and one each in 2008 and 2007.

Parks Canada officials caught an Edmonton family feeding a black bear bread crumbs over the May long weekend. A photo of the feeding was taken and the family was reported to park officials. Mamalis said the family members were given a warning but not fined. They were remorseful for what they did, he said.

Source: CBC News Online

## **Parks And Protected Areas**

### **Queensland/Australia – Alwal National Park Queensland Creates Another New National Park**

*Summary/Resumen:* A new 42,500-hectare national park has been declared on Cape York Peninsula. / Un nuevo parque nacional con una extensión de 42.500 has ha sido establecido en la península de Cape York.

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A new national park has been declared on Cape York Peninsula, that part of Queensland that juts up toward New Guinea on the east side of the Gulf of Carpentaria. It is home to endangered parrots and rare rock-wallabies.

The 42,500-hectare park, west of Cooktown, was named Alwal National Park at a ceremony on Wednesday, May 25th. The park also features diverse landscapes from sandstone escarpments, low hills and seasonal wetlands to patches of vine thicket, and protects the upper reaches of Morehead River and its tributaries.

Traditional owners and Queensland's department of environment and resource management will jointly manage the park. A second property on Cape York, covering 37,000 hectares, was also handed back to traditional owners under Wednesday's agreement and includes a 2,700-hectare nature refuge. For more information on the park, see the following websites:

<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/alwal/index.html>  
<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/alwal/culture.html>

Source: *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Australia, with additional information from IRF member Andy Dutton and Georgianna Fenn, QPWS

## **Canada – Sable Island National Park Nova Scotia’s Sable Island To Be Designated A National Park**

*Summary/Resumen:* Sable Island, which lies off of Nova Scotia, is to become a new national park./ La isla Sable, por la costa de Nova Scotia, va a ser un nuevo parque nacional.

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The federal and Nova Scotia governments are set to designate Sable Island as a national park. Both governments say the move is necessary to protect the tiny island's diverse wildlife.

Hundreds of wild horses live on Sable Island, which measures just 34 square kilometers along a thin, curving strip of land southeast of Halifax. The island is a major breeding ground for grey and harbor seals and has a bird sanctuary. It's also famous for being an extremely dangerous place for ships; strong waves and foggy weather have caused more than 350 vessels to crash on the island since 1583.

Source: CTV News, Canada

## **Park People**

### **United States – Timpanogos Cave National Monument Park Worker Killed In Accidental Fall**

*Summary/Resumen:* A park maintenance worker died when he fell several hundred feet down a steep slope from a park trail./ Un empleado de mantenimiento falleció a caerse 60 metros de un sendero en el parque.

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Park maintenance worker Rex Walker, 58, died on May 20th after falling several hundred feet down a steep slope from the park’s main trail, which leads visitors to and from the cave. Walker was riding a two-wheeled, motorized, park trail bike when the incident occurred.

Walker and other park employees had begun a “rock scaling” operation on the cliffs above the trail – removing loose rocks that could be potential hazards to visitors walking the cave trail below. Walker had served as a “spotter” during the operation, holding back cave tour groups from the work zone until it was safe to pass on the four- to five-foot-wide, paved trail. State and federal authorities are investigating the accident.

Source: National Park Service Morning Report

### **United States – Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Maintenance Employee Killed In Accident**

*Summary/Resumen:* Two park maintenance workers riding in a utility vehicle were hit by a car – one was injured, the other killed./ 2 empleados del mantenimiento pasaron en un vehículo que chocó con otro. Un empleado murieron y el otro fue herido.

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Long-term seasonal maintenance worker Teddy Garrett was killed in an accident while at work earlier this month. A car traveling along a highway through the park struck a park utility vehicle (UTV), flipping it over. Two maintenance employees on the UTV – operator Robert “Mike” Jackson and passenger Teddy Garrett – were injured in the crash. Jackson was treated for minor injuries and released, but Garrett subsequently died from his injuries.

Source: National Park Service Morning Report

## **International Opportunities**

### **United Arab Emirates – Hili National Archeological Park Opening For Superintendent At Archeological Park**

*Summary/Resumen:* The Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage in the United Arab Emirates is seeking a park superintendent for an archeological park. /La Abu Dhabi Autoridad de Cultura y Patrimonio de los Emiratos Árabes Unidos está buscando a un director para un parque arqueólogo.

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The Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) is developing an internationally significant archaeological park scheduled to re-open in 2012. We are seeking a highly qualified, professional national or cultural park manager to serve as a onsite mentor to aid in guiding and developing a promising leader, who will manage the park and protect its resources into the future. Interested? Send your resume to Richard (Dick) Martin at [qsmamo@frontiernet.net](mailto:qsmamo@frontiernet.net) or call him at 530-547-4961. Salary and benefits will be determined by Human Resources of ADACH.

Here's more on the park: Hili National Archaeological Park preserves a unique and fortuitous combination of settlement, defensive site, and funerary architecture, demonstrating agricultural, craft and trade activities across about three millennia and during two distinct occupational phases. Hili was the location of some of the earliest archaeological work ever undertaken in the UAE, and has been a pioneer in publicly accessible open-air archaeological sites in the United Arab Emirates.

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Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world. Submissions should be sent to Bill Halainen at [Bill\\_Halainen@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Halainen@contractor.nps.gov) .

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