

Safety Pre Season Orientations Compiled

Park Service Regulations

PFD's

- How to fit a PFD
 - loosen all straps including shoulder straps.
 - then start tightening from the bottom up.
- PFD'S must:
 - Be in serviceable condition.
 - Not have any rips, tears or holes.
 - Not show signs of water logging, mildew, odor, or shrinkage of the buoyant materials
 - Have a readable USCG label with the intended use listed as whitewater rafting, sailing, kayaking, or paddling.
- Required personal protection equipment must be inspected and in good working order.

Rabies

- Tents are a good way to avoid exposure to bats.
- Any warm-blooded mammal can carry or contract rabies, not just bats.
- The National Park Service Recommends evacuation as soon as possible with any animal bite or scratch of any kind, including but not limited to bats.
- Rabies is present in the Canyon's bat population/advise pax of this during tent talk.

Park Service Regulations

Evacuation/Communications

- NPS is solely responsible for coordinating helicopter evacuations.
- Park will do a 2nd flight for an adult to accompany a minor.
- Park will also take the blame for not flying uninjured co-travelers.
- Big horn Respiratory Disease, report to NPS/ contact info in SAT phone. Look for coughing, sneezing, snotty, open mouth breathing.
- For events like a boat stuck at Crystal contact Park/ AZRA as soon as possible.
- No diving , 3 previous incidents in the park last year.
- Revisit arch site policy.
- Camp at RM 89.2 is now open to river trips with an exchange.
- Whitmore Helipad exchange window extended to 11:30.
- Lids are required on hand wash source buckets.
- NPS guidelines for evacuation post-exposure to rabies: 5days to start treatment if on trunk or extremities, if on the face/head or a bloody gaping wound then evacuate within 24 hours.
- No more driving your motor boat upstream from the ferry to camp, "may move upstream no more than a mile to lessen congestion at the ramp, must return to within 200 yards of the ramp to spend the night".
- "Hualapai Tribal lands begin on river left, above the historic high-water line at river mile 165 and extends to river mile 273".
- Use of SUPs requires NPS approval.
- There is not an NPS rules against giving hikers a ride across the river: if you choose to do so please make safety the priority, e.g. they must wear a PFD.
- The park considers the TL the designated safety officer.
- "Canyon District" is the "new" river district, covers anywhere below the rim. Expect to see rangers in the field wearing full uniforms.

- If reporting infractions include mile number/date/number of boats and try to get a picture.
- Please don't trap or relocate snakes, really messes with them, food, water, ect.
- Caves are closed, going into caves can spread white nose syndrome in the bat population.
- Please discourage pottery piles at Unkar Delta, and everywhere else.
- We can only launch from the concrete ramp if the dirt ramp is full.
- A Crew member with the Food Manager Cert must physically supervise guests in the kitchen.
- Use your table tarps under drink table and use fire blankets under the fire pan.
- Do not reserve leftovers.

Park Service info

- Water may be off intermittently at the boat beach.
- Please use the restrooms at the Ferry, if not then be discrete.

Azra Specific Safety

Evacuations

- Familiarize yourself with the Critical Response and Planning binder, there is a new incident response document and Diamond Creek Protocols. Now there is a duplicate of the C.R.A.P. binder in the TL box.
- Evac protocols
 - Loss of consciousness due to a head injury (TBI).
 - Injury that would make it unsafe to continue the trip.
 - They become (or are) a danger to themselves or others.
- During an evac make sure to rig boats to flip, also make sure to have a boat ready to launch in the event of a helicopter crashing into the river upon approach/departure.
- Glow sticks in radio box for night flights, headlamp strobes good, flash photography not good.
- Inform Park/AZRA when unusual measures are being taken in the field (such as IV meds) to help them accurately triage the situation.
- Be prepared to follow instructions if you call out. If calling out for passenger medical advise, consider flying them.
- Don't forget to send out phone lists with your evacuees (in the TL box and radio box)
- Take out vehicles will start carrying SAT phones.

Swims, near misses and noteworthy events (This is all included in the TL Booklet)

- Please check in with every guest on a trip after a flip, evacuation, or other unexpected events.
- Training swims are the best way we know of getting people more comfortable in the water. Please encourage pax to do training swims.
- Lightning! Wear shoes to protect yourself in wet sand/surfaces during an electrical storm.

Medical

- Providing prescription medication to our passengers is outside the scope of our training, please exercise good judgement!
- Claritin/Zantac Congo replacing diphen in first aids.
- Drug free workplace: pre- employment, random and post-accident drug tests.

Hiking (This is all included in the Pre-hiking Risk Assessment and the TL Booklet)

- When doing loop hikes management prefers to have boats at either end of the hike, to split up the major/trauma boxes and have communication devices at both ends. If guides are back hiking they should take the same route as pax.
- When it is appropriate to have a guide stay back with non-hikers?
- We are now sending two-way radios; they are a safety tool not a telephone!
- Havasu boundary issue, don't go to Beaver Falls. Think of other options in the area.

Risk Management (This is all included in the Pre-hiking Risk Assessment and the TL Booklet)

- PFDs are required to be worn and buckled when disembarking from the boats at either of the pull-ins at Havasu and when hiking along rivers edge from either boat parking.
- PFDs are required to be worn and buckled until off the boats at Matkat.
- PFD'S are required at Diamond Creek until the boats are out of the water, this includes while washing the boats.

Food RMP and Head Cook (This is included in Head Cooking Tips)

- Please ensure you marry your boats upon arrival at camp. Also, derig your cooler and side boxes to prepare for the HC.

Risk Management Plan (RMP)

- The Satellite phone and text device are emergency tools, use it as/ if needed.
When calling dispatch for an evac ask to speak with the SAR Shift Supervisor.
Give location, medical/trauma, stable/unstable, commercial/private or hiker. Keep calls short and to the point.
- Discuss location of SAT phone, trauma, etc with crew members.
- TL should not be incident Commander and patience caregiver; hand off one role.
- Jumping and lifting can cause major injuries. Please slow down and use proper body mechanics.
- Please emphasize early and often that guests should use opposing hand holds.
- Please talk with each other about what appropriate boat spacing is. Some people want 3 boat lengths and some people want 13. Discuss spacing on hikes as well, be in sight or whistle blast away unless discussed previously. (This is in the Pre-trip Risk Assessment and Pre-hiking Risk Assessment as well as in the TL Booklet).
- Pay attention to extension/blower cords at the Ferry, electricity and water don't mix.