



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington
Memorial Parkway

C/O Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101
703-289-2500 phone
703-289-2598 fax

Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Conditions for Activities in Great Falls Park, Virginia

Great Falls Park, 9200 Old Dominion Drive, Great Falls, Virginia
(703) 285-2965

Please note: Violation of any of the conditions contained in this document is grounds for immediate revocation of an authorization.

- Commercial Use Authorization holder or his/her representative is required to have a copy of the CUA in his/her possession at all times when conducting commercial activities in Great Falls Park.
- All instructors/guides must hold current certifications in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a minimum American Red Cross First Aid certification or equivalent. The group must carry a basic first aid kit at all times while in the park.
- CUA holder or his/her representative must have in their possession, parental contact information for all minor children in their care while in the park. In addition, CUA holder or his/her representative must carry in their possession signed medical parental/guardian release for emergency medical treatment, for all minor children in their care while in the park.
- Swimming or wading is PROHIBITED in the Potomac River, regardless of river level.
- Any accidents or injuries involving clients or employees of the CUA holder must be reported immediately to the Great Falls Site Manager or designate.

General Conditions

Prior to issuing a CUA, the park must receive a complete Emergency Procedures Plan (EPP) from the prospective CUA holder. The EPP provides guidelines for dealing with emergencies and interacting with park staff in the event of an emergency. Attachment A provides an example of the minimum information required.

National Park Service entrance fee regulations apply at Great Falls Park and paid at the park Entrance Station. Entrance fee rates as of January 1, 2007 are \$3 per person over 16 years of age (walk in, equestrian or bicycle) or \$5 per passenger vehicle. CUA holder and/or their customers may use the Great Falls Park Pass or the America the Beautiful Interagency Park Pass; they are non-transferable and cover the entrance fee of the individual holding the pass.

CUA holder and his/her representatives must be present at all times with the permitted group, and assume full responsibility for the actions under his/her instructions. The CUA holder and all persons under his/her instruction will exercise stringent safety precautions and report promptly to Park Rangers all activities observed which endanger the safety of any park visitor.

The taking of photos, film or videotapes for promotional purposes is not authorized under a CUA. Great Falls Park, the National Park Service or the Department of the Interior shall not be mentioned in any promotional material prepared by the CUA holder. No collection of fees, advertising, soliciting for services or other commercial activities are permitted in the park. All CUA holders must identify their group affiliation to the staff at the Great Falls Entrance Station and sign the Commercial Use Authorization log.

Rock Climbing

1. CUA holder will check in at the "Climber's Sign-In" at the lower parking lot or at the Visitor Center courtyard.

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2. Climbing is not allowed near the park's three (3) main overlooks, or on any of the park's historic structures, including the area known as "Canal Cut". The Superintendent reserves the right to restrict climbing in any other area deemed necessary for resource protection.
3. No permanent anchors of any type within the park may be placed in the park. Drilling, bolting, the use of pitons or any protection or direct aid device that may scar or damage rock are not permitted.

River Activities

1. CUA holder shall comply with all laws and regulations adopted by the State of Maryland for recreational boating.
2. Inflation of rafts by mechanical pumps may be conducted in the parking lot areas only.
3. Access to the Potomac River is restricted to the location in the park known as Fisherman's Eddy. CUA holder shall enter the eddy only from the south side. The access trail and put-in points are steep and can be uneven and slippery with difficult footing. The outfitter must make an assessment if their group can safely access the river. Rafts shall be carried in such a way to minimize inconvenience to the other park visitors. On all trails, hikers, bikers, anglers and other park users have right-of-way.
4. The CUA holder will comply with any boating or recreation advisories issued by Maryland Department of Natural Resources and provide adequate safeguards to address emergency situations should the need arise.

Emergency Response Situations at Great Falls Park, Virginia

All employees, chaperones or guides associated with the Commercial Use Authorization activity must be familiar with the following information. There are two (2) different ways to report emergencies in Great Falls Park. Notify a National Park Service staff member **AND** have someone call the 911 system using a mobile phone or the pay phone in the Visitor Center Courtyard. It is important that you contact both the National Park Service and 911 as soon as possible.

The 911 system is keyed to address locations and this is the reason you must report the park's address if you call 911 directly. The 911 operator may not be knowledgeable of specific locations in the park, so you have to try to relay as much information about the emergency location as possible so the operator can convey this to the responding units.

Depending on the emergency location and the nature of the incident, one or all of the following may respond to the incident: National Park Service Rangers, Fairfax County (Virginia) Fire and Rescue – ten (10) plus vehicles, Montgomery County (Maryland) Fire and Rescue – two (2) boats, United States Park Police (USPP) and USPP Aviation – one (1) helicopter.

Some of the above responding agencies do not have specific, in-depth knowledge about place names, trail names or locations in the park. For this reason, it is often faster to report the emergency to the staff at Great Falls Park. They can determine exactly where the incident is and how best to report it. It is imperative that you attempt to give information about the emergency's location as accurately as possible to **both** 911 and Park Staff in order to get help to you as quickly as possible. It is also essential that you post guides at key locations to lead emergency responders to the emergency.

When rescue personnel arrive they will take over treatment of the patient and determine how best to evacuate the patient. It may also be necessary for your staff to use the emergency hand signals, especially if the USPP helicopter is first on the scene, please see the instructions in Attachment A.

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IV. How to Report the Emergency:

A. Information to report about the patient:

Gender:

Age:

The problem with the patient is:

Are they conscious, or did the patient lose consciousness?

Is the person breathing?

Did the patient fall (if so how many feet)?

Are they bleeding?

Are they talking?

B. Specific Location of Emergency:

1. Exact location of the patient?

What trail are they on, and what is the closest landmark?

In the water and/or at the bottom of the cliffs?

At the top of the cliffs or on a trail?

2. Identify major landmarks and use these as reference points to describe where the emergency location is. Please reference the emergency location as being either "upstream" or "downstream" of the landmark being used as a reference.

Major landmarks easily recognized by rescue personnel:

The waterfalls

Rocky Island

Overlooks #1, #2 or #3

Romeo's Ladder

Sandy Landing Boat Ramp

Cow Hoof Rock

AA Gorge

Difficult Run (waterfall area)

The Quarry (near the Sandy Landing area)

3. Indicate where rescue personnel can meet you or designated staff/chaperones (if you are reporting by phone). You should plan to send guides to direct rescue personnel to the scene of the incident.

Note: Most county rescue units will arrive through the main entrance (at the Great Falls Entrance Station) unless the emergency is at Difficult Run. For Difficult Run, they will come through the locked gate on Georgetown Pike.

Your Emergency Plan Should Also Include the Following General Procedures:

1. Report the emergency **immediately**. Try to **report the emergency to National Park Service personnel first** (this will save time for rescue personnel):

2. If your mobile phone is working, call:

1. Main Number: (703) 285-2965, or

2. Entrance Station: (703) 285-2967

3. If you are unable to call on a mobile phone, and need to send someone to get help, National Park Service personnel can be found at the following:

- **The Entrance Station** (fee booth) is normally open from 7 am until late afternoon.

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ATTACHMENT A - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PLAN

Overview

Prior to issuance of a CUA, an Emergency Procedures Plan must be approved by the park. It is required that all employees, chaperones and staff members of the CUA holder's company be familiar with the Emergency Procedures Plan, and that the plan be carried by employees and staff members while conducting authorized activities in Great Falls Park. Please customize a plan for each type of activity (i.e., climbing, rafting, etc.) that will take place in Great Falls Park. Park staff will review the plan for completeness and accuracy. Plans should be detailed enough so that a client of the organization could easily follow the instructions in order to get help.

The plan serves several purposes:

- It familiarizes the permit holder with procedures to handle an emergency in Great Falls Park.
- It explains how to report an emergency in the park regardless of time of day.
- Emergency plans will also assist rescue personnel in getting to the scene of the incident more quickly.

CUA holders are required to have signed medical treatment releases and parental contact information for all minors who are participating in the CUA activity in their possession. Please be prepared to provide that information if requested by National Park Service staff.

The Emergency Procedures Plan should be clearly identified as the plan for Great Falls Park. It must include the following information:

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PLAN FOR

Great Falls Park, Virginia
9200 Old Dominion Drive
(703) 285-2965

- I. **Describe Your Company's Type of Activity and the Activity Location (Be as specific as possible):**
(i.e., rock climbing, rafting, name of climbing area, place on the river, or trail name where your activity will take place)
- II. **Describe the Location of the nearest phone and exactly how to get to that phone from the Activity location:**
(Note: **DO NOT** rely on mobile phones as your only emergency communications alternative. They do not work reliably in all locations).
There is one public pay phone at the park (in the courtyard) of the visitor center. Please provide clear instructions on how to reach that phone from your planned Activity Location(s).
- III. **Location of Nearest Hospital:**
Note: You should indicate the name, location and phone number of the hospital. You should also indicate specific directions to follow in order to get to the hospital. This is in case you must take a person there or follow an ambulance to the hospital.

Reston Hospital, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston, Virginia (703) 689-9000 is the closest to Great Falls Park.
(Note: write your own directions for your staff to follow).

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- **National Park Service Ranger offices** are located in the lower level of the Visitor Center. Staff members are on duty from 8:30 a.m. until late afternoon and can be identified by the National Park Service uniform.
 - **The Visitor Center** is open from 10 am until late afternoon, and is staffed by Park Service staff and park volunteers (yellow volunteer shirt).
4. **If park personnel are not available, contact 911:**
 - Tell the 911 operator you are calling from **Great Falls Park, Virginia** (this is very important, as there is a Great Falls Park, Maryland)
 - If the emergency is anywhere in the park other than at or near Difficult Run, the address is: **9200 Old Dominion Drive**
 - If the emergency is at or very near Difficult Run, the address is: **8800 Old Dominion Drive**
 5. Staff members or other members of the group should be stationed along the trails leading to the scene of the incident and to assist in directing rescuers to the scene.
 6. Move all non-injured persons to safety and away from the scene.
 7. Begin rendering essential first aid and collecting information regarding the situation. Move the patient only if necessary to immediately save their life!
 8. Use hand-and-arm signals to communicate with rescue personnel in boats or in the United States Park Police Helicopter. *Note: Every member of the CUA holder's staff conducting business at Great Falls must know how to use these signals!*

Hand and Arm Signals to Communicate with Rescue Personnel:

Help/Emergency/I'm in distress: There are two variations for this signal with the two-arm signal being the best. Both signals involve moving your extended arm(s) in a waving fashion above your head, until you know the signal has been seen and understood. This signal is more clearly seen if you hold something in your hand such as a helmet or bright piece of clothing.

OK?/OK!/I'm OK: Hold your flexed arm out to your side and repeatedly tap the top of your head with your palm. When you see this signal, you should answer back with the same signal so that everyone knows that the situation is OK. When rescue aircraft fly by, use this to tell the pilot you are OK and you are not the party in distress.

Need Medical Help/The Emergency is Here: This signal cannot be easily seen from an aircraft unless it is very close to you (such as in a hover), so use the "Help" signal until you are certain the signal has been recognized. To use the "Need Medical Help/The Emergency is Here" signal, extend your arms over your head and cross them in an "X" configuration. If you repeatedly move your arms from over your head to your waist, while keeping them in the "X" your signal may attract more attention.

Go/Look That Way: Hold out your arm in the direction the rescuers should look/go and keep it pointing in that direction until your signal is acknowledged (usually by an "OK" signal).