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# Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: July 7, 2010

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## Recent Incidents at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

#### Probable Drowning in the Kings River in Kings Canyon National Park

At approximately 11 a.m. on July 4,backpackers informed park staff that they had seen a body in the South Fork of the Kings River near Mist Falls. Park rangers investigated and confirmed that a body was located in difficult-to-access terrain approximately 1/10 of a mile below Mist Falls. On July 5, a National Park Service Search and Rescue Team conducted a technical operation to recover the victim from the river. The body of a 40-year-old male, Khan Nguyen, was recovered late in the afternoon. Over 20 rescuers and a helicopter were used to complete the mission. Remains were released to the Fresno County Coroner's Office. The cause of death is under investigation pending the coroner's report.

### Search and Rescue on Indian Head Trail at Sequoia National Park

Park staff received a report of a man who fell on the rocks along the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River at Sequoia National Park at 4:51 p.m. on Monday, July 5. Staff responded within minutes. After assessing the status of the patient, a 66-year-old male, park staff carried the man off the trail by wheeled litter (stretcher). The patient, who had a possible broken hip, was transported by Three Rivers Ambulance #14 to Kaweah Delta Hospital in Visalia. Fourteen National Park Service personnel assisted with the rescue effort.

#### **Safety Reminder:**

The National Park Service issues the following warning: Drowning remains the most common cause of death at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Please use extreme caution near riverbanks and at river/creek crossings, as the area may be very slippery. Water levels are running exceptionally high - 3-4 times the normal flow - for this time of the season, and currents are very strong. When in doubt, don't cross a river or stream. In addition, the National Park Service does not recommend swimming in either the Kaweah River or Kings River for the same reasons.

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