



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Body Retrieved from Below Rim at Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon, AZ. – Grand Canyon National Park rescue personnel retrieved the body of a man that has been identified as 58 year old Richard D. Jenkins of Chicago, Illinois, from below the South Rim of the park yesterday, October 22.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2008, the Grand Canyon Regional Communications Center was notified that an abandoned duffle bag had been turned in at the Yavapai Observation Station. Upon responding to Yavapai, investigative rangers were shown where the duffle bag was found; and in the process of searching the area, observed what appeared to be a body approximately 300 feet below the rim. The park helicopter, on its way to the North Rim, was diverted to the scene and confirmed these observations.

Park rescue personnel were then dispatched to hike down to the Tonto Plateau and cross over to the body's location below and just east of Yavapai Point. Upon reaching their destination, rangers found the body of a man approximately 60 years of age. The body was prepared for transport and was lifted out by helicopter via long-line operation at approximately 4:00 in the afternoon.

The rim trail remained open throughout the operation. However, portions of the rim itself were temporarily closed in order to assure the safety of park personnel below the rim.

Mr. Jenkins body was transferred to the Coconino County Medical Examiner's office. An investigation into the incident is being conducted by the National Park Service. No further information is available at this time.

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