



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Drowning in Sequoia National Park on July 3

Three Rivers, CA – A 45-year-old man from the Los Angeles, California area was swept down the Kaweah River at Sequoia National Park on an inner tube-type floatation device near Buckeye Flat Campground at approximately 12:30 p.m. A park ranger was notified by a family member about the missing man at approximately 1:15 p.m. The National Park Service immediately initiated a search and rescue team, including helicopter surveillance. The man was located 4-5 miles downstream and pronounced dead at the scene. This drowning incident is under investigation.

General Reminder on River Safety for All Park Visitors: Drowning is the #1 cause of death at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Rivers are especially enticing at this time of the year, when air temperatures are over 100 degrees. *Swimming and entering the river is not safe now.* Park visitors should be very cautious of rivers swollen after heavy snowfalls (150-200% of normal), which have melted very slowly this spring and summer. Waters are icy cold, which can lead to hypothermia. Entering a river that appears calm can prove deadly, even for strong swimmers. Strong currents beneath the surface can sweep unsuspecting visitors off of their feet. The bottom of the river is uneven. Rocks may be very slippery, and riverbanks are uneven, too. Floatation devices can give a people a false sense of security within dangerous rivers. Creek crossings can be especially dangerous.

For general information about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.

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ABOUT SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. The park is open year-round with visitor activities depending upon season and elevation.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.