



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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Recent Incidents at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Law enforcement and other staff have responded to various incidents at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks over the past several weeks.

- On November 25, 2010, at approximately 2:00 p.m., park staff encountered a man speeding into the park through the exit side of the Ash Mountain Entrance Station in Three Rivers, CA. Law enforcement rangers responded and found the man near the Ash Mountain Visitor Center where other park staff had encountered him just a few minutes earlier. When the law enforcement ranger arrived, the suspect threw the pistol to the ground. Additional rangers arrived on scene within moments, and the suspect was taken into custody without further incident. After further investigation, it was found that the suspect had discharged at least eight rounds in the vicinity of the visitor center area while shouting about the end of the world and Armageddon. The suspect, a 42-year-old male from the Sacramento, California, area, was transported to a local hospital and held for psychiatric evaluation. In addition, rangers found drug paraphernalia and approximately 10 pounds of packaged and processed marijuana (valued at approximately \$35,000) in the suspect's vehicle.
- Park staff received several reports of visitors not obeying traffic laws and regulations. Entrance station staff received several reports of people driving through the construction zone on a red light, forcing some uphill traffic to make U-turns in order to avoid collisions. In addition, park staff received several reports of visitors driving without chains in chain-controlled areas. *(Park visitors are reminded to follow all traffic rules and regulations for their safety and the safety of others.)*
- There were two reports of bear incidents at Hospital Rock. It was reported one bear gained access to a visitor's food while a crowd watched, and there was a report of someone "teasing" a bear. *(Park visitors are reminded that feeding and harassing wildlife is prohibited in the park.)*

- Rangers responded to a fire alarm at Wuksachi Lodge's Sequoia Building. A three-company response provided six trained personnel to clear the building. It was determined to be a false alarm.
- Rangers made various traffic stops and issued violation notices for the lack of drivers' licenses or suspended licenses, vehicle equipment issues, and possession of a controlled substance. In addition, a traffic stop ended with towing of the vehicle due to a previous violation for driving without a license.
- On Nov 21, the sprinkler system in the Wuksachi Fire Station activated causing significant water damage. The activated sprinkler head was found in the upstairs boiler room. There was evidence of a propane/boiler explosion.
- Rangers conducted an ambulance transport of a 6-year-old girl with a possible head injury in the Lodgepole area of the park.
- A series of cold winter storms moved through the area depositing approximately 3 feet of snow on the ground. Rangers responded to multiple traffic issues related to road conditions. (*Park visitors are reminded to pay close attention to weather conditions before entering the parks and to prepare appropriately with chains, cables, and/or four-wheel drive vehicles as conditions may change quickly.*)
- Rangers assisted a diabetic female with a broken glucose monitor. No medical treatment was requested.
- A 51-year-old female suffered a slip and fall on the Grant Tree Loop Trail. She sustained an injury to her left wrist. After assessment and treatment by rangers, she was transported to the hospital in a privately-owned vehicle.
- Visitors reported an elderly couple having difficulty on the Grant Tree Ski Trail. A Grant Grove ranger responded on skis and found the couple on the trail approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile from Hwy. 180. The elderly woman was moving very slowly due to a twisted ankle. The ranger helped the couple to his patrol vehicle and transported them to their vehicle. The woman declined medical assistance.

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