PSAR  Preventative Search & Rescue

History, Numbers & Trends

National Park Service
Grand Canyon National Park
PSAR History

<1996: Informal approach
1996: Seven heat related fatalities. 482 SAR Incidents.
1997: A formal approach to PSAR was adopted & implemented by the Corridor District. We took a hard line approach (*Heat Kills*).
2002: Integrated into the Branch of EMS.
2003: *Hike Smart* adopted.
2006: Entering it’s tenth season
Visitor Contact & Interaction
Corridor Trails
  South Kaibab in the AM
  Bright Angel in the AM/PM
  North Kaibab
Backcountry Trails
  Grandview & Hermit
Maintain Trail Caches
Educational information-
  Media...PSA’s, interviews
  Posters, stickers, pins, table tents
  www.nps.gov/grca/backcountry/smart.htm
Assist EMS branch during summer season
Assist with Inner Canyon Ranger station staffing
Funding & Staffing

Fee Demo
Seasonal and STEP employees - EMT’s, WFR’s
Volunteers
Informal intake opportunity
Training
Employees
Numbers

Are PSAR efforts reducing hiker heat related SAR Incidents.

From 1987 – 1996 there were 14 hiker heat related fatalities.

From 1997-2005 there were 7 hiker heat related fatalities.
Search & Rescue Incidents 1987-2005

Hiker Fatalities in white (May 1 – September 15)
Why have the numbers dropped?

- **PSAR Efforts**
  - VIP’s worked 2000+ hours in 247 days in 2005.
  - 219 hiker assists pre-empted SAR responses.
  - One person a day is convinced to alter their plan.

- **Increased Awareness**
  - Backcountry visitors are expecting PSAR rangers.
  - Visitors are better prepared.
  
  *Over the Edge*

- **Closure of South Kaibab Trailhead parking lot**
  - No more spontaneous hikes.

- **Environmental** –

- **Other ideas?**
Trends

Where will we be in ten years?

Increasing skills and awareness of visitors.
Commercial Operations
Mistakes will continue to be made.
  Todd Bowers (96)
  Phillip Grimm (96)
  Margaret Bradley (04)
  BSA Troop 37 (05)

Predictions?
Questions? Comments?