

CHAPTER VII:

EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS ANALYSIS

Emergency Response Readiness Analysis

One item that is often forgotten when adventure tourism is created is the fact that this type of activity increases the number of people and the chance for accidents. The areas emergency services need to be equipped, trained and have a plan in place to deal with the new types of activity in their area.

The geography of the proposed trail area has steep slopes along the sides of the trail, rock out crops and the trails may run in close proximity to the lake. While these attributes are the very items that will draw people to come and enjoy these trails, it is also the things that might increase the chance of accidents.



There are positives to the area that should be considered and added into the formal emergency response plan. There are already locations along the trail that could be designated as helicopter landing zones. These areas include reclaimed strip mines, baseball fields, etc. Another evacuation route that may be considered is the use of the lake by way of boat to a meeting point with EMS.

The physical location of Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park is very remote. This is again a factor that will draw users to this “backwoods experience”. It is also a hazard because of the time that it will take to extricate and transport someone to definitive care.

There are three hospitals within proximity to the State Park. They are Hazard ARH Hospital in Hazard, Kentucky River Medical Center in Jackson and Mary Breckenridge Hospital in Hyden. It is at least a 30 minute drive by ambulance to any of these three hospitals from the study area. This does not take into consideration the amount of time that it might take to respond, locate, treat and extricate a patient from a remote area of the park.

There are two fire departments that service the area of the proposed trails. We spoke with Chief Randy Gabbard of the Buckhorn Fire Department. This Fire Department is located in the town of Buckhorn. He said that their fire department is not equipped or trained to conduct search and rescue operations. We also spoke with Chief Ben Stidham of the Chavies Fire Department. This Fire Department is located in the Chavies Community. He stated that his department did “All Terrain Rescue”. However when we asked what types of training and equipment that they had, we received the following response; *“Well we have All Terrain Rescue*