## **INCIDENT REPORTS**

### RivCoParks

Deborah Newell

# What is an Incident Report?

Incident reports serve as official records of incidents, accidents, damage, and non-employee injuries. Depending on the nature of the incident and the parties involved, RivCoParks utilizes one of three types of incident reports: County of Riverside Confidential Incident/Accident Report, County of Riverside Confidential Vehicle Accidents/Incident Report, and RivCoParks Incident Report.

Incident reports are required according to County Safety Policy 4001, which states that "any and all incidents must be reported immediately and followed up with a written report to the department or District's Safety Representative within 24 hours."

Incident reports serve a variety of purposes. They can be used to keep people informed of activities within the District, compile statistical information, identify problems at a specific location, or identify departmental training needs. In addition, these reports may be used to facilitate investigations, prepare cases for Risk Management, or defend cases in court.

Therefore, writing a detailed and accurate incident report is extremely important.

#### The Importance of Well-Written Reports

Poorly written reports hurt our credibility by making staff appear less than competent and professional. They can also undermine the District's goals in a number of ways. A poorly written report can cause the District to lose a case in court, make it difficult to accurately identify training and equipment needs, or result in failure to take appropriate follow-up action.

Just as important as the content of the report are grammar, punctuation, spelling, and word choice. Something as simple as improper use or omission of a comma can change the meaning of a sentence. So can the use of a wrong word.

Well-written reports require some effort. They should not be thrown together between calls or during the last couple of minutes of a shift. It is important to carefully review and edit each report before forwarding it to the Supervisor and the District Safety Coordinator. The writer must ensure that the report accurately reflects what happened and how staff responded.

## What is an incident?

- Incidents include but are not limited to:
  - Injury or illness of guest/park guest
  - Injury to a volunteer
  - Employee related vehicle accident
  - Private vehicle / boat accident within a Park
  - Accidents resulting in injury or property damage
  - Incident within a park:
    - fight, disturbance, lost child, report of theft
  - Damage to District property or Guest personal property

## What is **NOT** an incident?

- Injury of an employee. In this case:
  - Required Workers Compensation paperwork must be completed
  - An incident report is not completed

## "Which form do I use?"

#### **County Safety 942-6**

District Vehicle Accident

#### **County Safety 943**

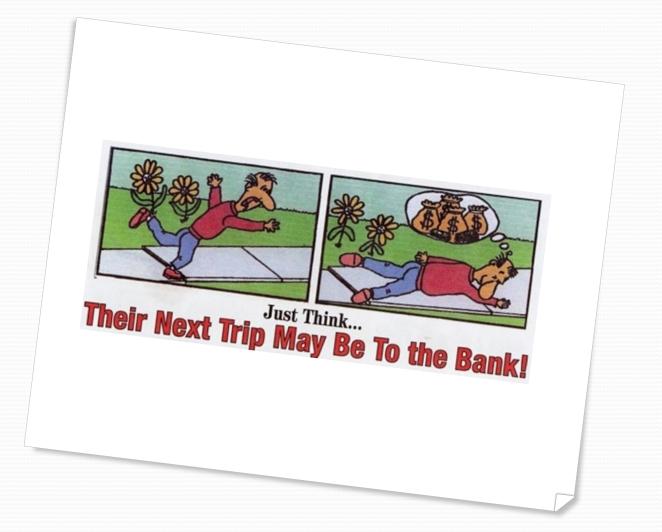
- All other vehicle accidents
- Property damage
  - Parks
  - Guest personal property
- Public Vehicle Accidents
- Non-employee injury/illness
- Volunteer injury

#### **District Incident Report**

- Incident not involving injury/illness
  - Lost child, fight, theft, noise, intoxication, etc.

**Good and Bad** 

Characteristics



## Common problems

- Text or content confusing to someone who was not there
- Thoughts not presented in an organized manner
- Not enough detail (who, what, when, where, why, and how)
- Not clear and concise
- Poor grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Incorrect word usage
- Use of terms, abbreviations, and acronyms that the reader may not be familiar with
- Inconsistency in style throughout report
- Photos are not clear

# Characteristics of a good report

The following are characteristics of a good incident report (or any other document for that matter)

- Accurate and Specific
- Factual
- Objective
- Clear
- Concise
- Well-organized
- Grammatically correct
- Light on abbreviations
- Clear photos (Scanned or mailed, not faxed)

## Accurate and Specific

- Write report as soon as possible while details are still fresh
- Double check dates, times, names, phone numbers, etc.
- Spell check
- Sign both pages of the report and have your supervisor do the same
- Proof documents/report carefully
  - ensure spell check did not change the word completely
- Being accurate also means being specific
  - Vague references do not give the reader enough information
     Vague: The camper appeared drunk.
    - Specific: The camper appeared to be under the influence of alcohol, as he was slurring his words, stumbled a couple of times, and was holding a Bud Light.

### Factual

- Incident reports should contain statements of fact
  - A fact is something that can be proved or disproved
    - The camper was refunded the money for 1 night's stay
- Incident reports may also use inference
  - An inference is a conclusion based on reasoning. It becomes sound or believable if supported by facts.
    - Inference: We suspected that he was driving under the influence because we could smell alcohol on his breath, his speech was slurred and he hit a tree when he parked.

Fact: Sheriff's tests and report confirmed that he had a blood alcohol level of .12

## Objective

- Objective reports are fair and impartial, not influenced by emotion or opinion.
- One key to being objective is to avoid words whose connotations change the tone of the report. Ex.:
  - Grumpy old man
  - Crazy lady
- An objective report includes both sides of the story and does not favor one side or another.
- Statements from those involved, witnesses, or others may not be objective. However, when you include those statements in your report, you need to make it clear that you are quoting someone else.

## Complete

- Appropriate incident report form is filled out completely
- It covers who, what, where, when, why, and how.
- It does not leave questions unanswered.
- Amount of detail included depends largely on the incident
- Consider how the report may be used in the future
  - Will we need to compare circumstances of this incident with others that may be related?
  - Might it be used for the purposes of future litigation?
- If there are details that may be needed in the future, include them in your report

### Concise

It may seem contradictory to say the report should be complete and concise.

- This does not mean to leave out important details
- It means using words economically and omitting words that do not add value
- Excessive wordiness interferes with readability and may cause confusion

## Well-Organized

- Poorly organized reports can leave readers feeling lost and confused
- The best way to organize will depend somewhat on the type of incident and the complexity of the situation
- Most reports are best if completed in chronological order

### Clear

- A clear report is one that is easily understood and contains no ambiguities
- If different people read the same report and come up with different interpretations, the report is not clear
- Be sure to provide specific details
- Use diagrams, sketches and photographs as appropriate
- Be sure the information in the report is consistent with the visual aids that are included

## **Grammatically Correct**

- Many errors made in writing incident reports are in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and word choice
- Errors in grammar and punctuation can affect both the clarity and accuracy of your report
- Reports with errors look unprofessional
- Proofreading is necessary to ensure spell check did not change any word to a completely to a different word
- Use active voice as much as possible
  - Active voice emphasizes the one doing the action
  - Passive voice emphasizes the person or thing being acted upon
  - Active voice is generally clearer, more powerful, more interesting, and more concise than passive voice.

Active: EMT was doing CPR when we arrived

**Passive:** CPR was being performed prior to our arrival

## Light on Abbreviations

- Some abbreviations are acceptable in almost any document i.e.: Dr., Mr., Mrs.
- Minimize the use of unnecessary abbreviations
- Too many abbreviations can distract the reader and/or make terms unfamiliar to the reader
- Too many abbreviations can undermine the clarity of the message

# Where to find the forms? <a href="http://intranet.rivcoparks.org/">http://intranet.rivcoparks.org/</a>

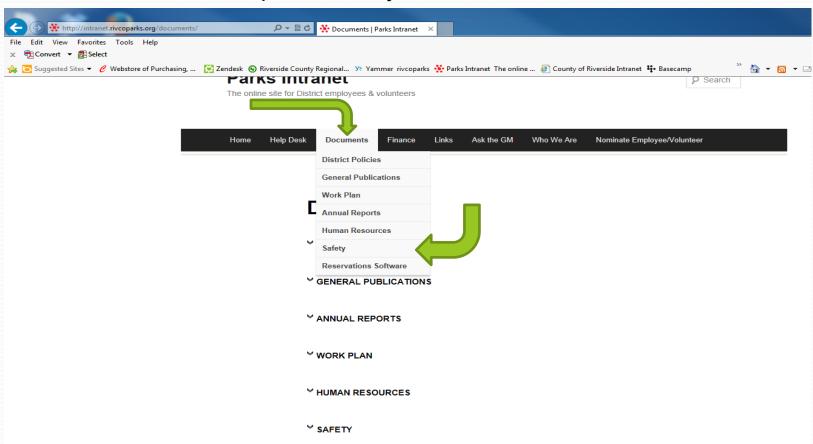


#### Select:

- Documents
  - Safety
    - Incident Report: Park District

or

o Incident Report: County



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- 2. Employee ID number
- 3. Driver's license number/state
- 4. Date of accident
- 5. Parks District/division/office address/work phone number
- 6. County vehicle number
- 7. Year of vehicle
- 8. Make
- 9. Model
- 10. Seatbelts
- 11. Describe vehicle damage
- 12. Driver's name
- 13. Driver's license number/state/limitations
- 14. Work address/work phone number
- 15. Home address/ cell phone number
- 16. Describe vehicle damage
- 17. Year of vehicle
- 18. Make
- 19. Model
- 20. License plate number/state
- 21. Insurance company/policy and phone number
- 22. Vehicle ownership information/name/number
- 23. Owner's address
- 24. Name of person injured
- 25. Sex
- 26. Date of birth
- 27. Address
- 28. Who was injured
- 29. Part of body injured
- 30. Type/extent of injury
- 31. First aid given by
- 32. Transported by
- 33. Transported to
- 34. Information for pedestrian

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#### Page two as needed

- 35. Date of accident
- 36. Place of accident
- 37. Time of accident
- 38. Fill in diagram
- 39. Describe what happened
- 40. Witness name/work and cell phone#
- 41. Second witness name/work and cell phone#
- 42. Property damage information Owner's name work/cell#
- 43. Property/item damaged and address
- 44. Insurance company name/telephone and policy#
- 45. Name of police officer/badge number/telephone#
- 46. Precinct
- 47. Police Report Number
- 48-66 Details of the trip
- 67. Supervisor only
- 68. Employee's name/title/signature/telephone#
- 69. Supervisor's name/title/signature/telephone#
- 70. Safety representative name/title/signature/telephone#
- 71. Dept. head name/title/signature/telephone#

Form No: 942.6 Revised Date: January 11, 2017

#### Form 943 Incident/Accident Report (Non-Automobile)

This Form Is Not To Be Used To Report Employee Injuries

County of Riverside Confidential Incident/Accident Report (Non-Automobile)

#### SUBMIT FORM TO:

County of Riverside H.R. Safety Division 3403 10th Street - Riverside, CA 92501 Mail Stop 2170 Ph: 951.955.3520 FAX 951.955.9200 safetydivision@rivco.org

DATE OF REPORT	NOTE (1): Pier NOTE (2): The er	se do not use this report aployee either witnessing	if injured person; the accident or s	is an employee. upervising at the t	ime, should	complete and sub-	mit this foo	m within 24 hours.
NAME OF INJURED (LAST, FIRST, M	(L)		AGE	PH NUMBER	PH NUMBER OF INJURED PERSON			
IS INJURED PERSON A MINOR?  UNDERSON OF THE PERSON OF THE	GUARDIAN (IF IN	ME OF PARENT OR LEGAL JARDIAN (IF INJURED IS A MINOR)						
ADDRESS OF PERSON INJURED (NU	IMBER, STREET, A	PTV, CITY, STATE, ZI	P CODE)					
WHERE DID ACCIDENT/INCIDENT	OCCUR? (Be specifi	c, e.g. from steps, lobby,	parking lot, etc	)		DATE (MONTH YEAR)	, DAY,	TIME DAM DPM.
ESCRIBE HOW ACCIDENT/INCIDE HEET;SJ.	NT OCCURRED (U	SE FACTS ONLY, EXC	LUDE OPINIOS	S AND/OR ASS	UMPTIONS	). IF NECESSAR	Y, USE AI	DOTTONAL
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NAME OF WITNESS(ES)		ADDRESS		TELPHO	INE NO.			
AME OF DEPARTMENT/AGENCY/D	DISTRICT, ETC.							
DORESS (NUMBER, STREET, CITY,	ZIP CODE)					TELEPHONE NO	λ.	
APPARENT NATURE OF INJURY	(PLEASE CHECK		INJURED PA	RT OF BODY (F	TEASE CH	ECK)		
Abrasion   Procure   Contacion   Cut   Isternal   Concussion   Other (explain)	☐ Strain/Sprain ☐ Dislocation		☐ Head ☐ Neck ☐ Back ☐ Other (explain)	8	Finger	□ Ar □ La □ Fa	8	☐ Abdomen ☐ Hand ☐ Foot
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Continue on reverse side or next page

## Form 943 Incident/Accident Report (Non-Automobile)

CONFIDENTIAL INCIDENT/ACCIDENT REPORT

EQUIPMENT REPORT

(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPMENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)

	USE BLANK SHEET IF NECESSARY
	EMPLOYEE'S REPORT
Name (Print)	
How soon after incident did you inspect location	on? Location clean? YES NO
Dry?  YES  NO Any puddle Describe location or condition	s?   YES   NO Describe lighting
Where were you when the incident occurred?	☐ YES ☐ NO Type and condition of shoes (if known)? ☐ OLD ☐ NEW
Did you see the incident? ☐ YES ☐ NO	If so, describe fully
Injured person's comments and attitude (IF Q	UESTION NOT APPLICABLE, ANSWER N/A)
HOUS	SEKEEPING/MAINTENANCE REPORT
	D PERSON SLIPPED OR FELL OR IF INCIDENT INVOLVED AN ELEVATOR)
Name (PRINT)	
	location?   YES NO If not, who is?
If so, describe your time schedule for cleaning	location?   YES   NO   If not, who is?   Last time cleaned
Time last dressed	Floor product used
When, before incident, did you last inspect loc	cation?
Describe its condition	
Was location clean? ☐ YES ☐ NO	Dry? □ YES □ NO Lighting? □ YES □ NO
If elevator involved, specify exact one involve	
Kemarks:	
Remarks:	
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM)  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE):	EQUIPMENT REPORT ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM: Equipment involved (DESCRIBE): Brand Name	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM) Equipment involved (DESCRIBE): Brand Name Color	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM)  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE):  Brand Name  Color  Date Purchased (If known)	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size  Where?
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM)  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE):  Brand Name  Color  Date Purchased (If known)	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size  Where?
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM)  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE):  Brand Name  Color  Date Purchased (If known)	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size  Where?
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM)  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE): Brand Name Color Date Purchased (If known) Manufacturer Condition of equipment: New Approximate date of last service	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size  Where?  Address  Used  Repaired
[MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM.]  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE): Brand Name Color Date Purchased (If known) Manufacturer Condition of equipment: New Approximate date of last service Who has equipment? (NOTE: IF POSSIBLE	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size  Where?
[MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM.]  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE): Brand Name Color Date Purchased (If known) Manufacturer Condition of equipment: New Approximate date of last service Who has equipment? (NOTE: IF POSSIBLE	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size  Where? Address Used Repaired  TRY TO RETAIN THE EQUIPMENT)
(MUST COMPLETE IF EQUIPM)  Equipment involved (DESCRIBE):  Brand Name  Color  Date Purchased (If known)  Manufacturer  Condition of equipment: New  Approximate date of last service  Who has equipment? (NOTE: IF POSSIBLE  Describe nature of injury or damage  How did it occur?	EQUIPMENT REPORT  ENT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE)  Model or style number  Size  Where? Address Used Repaired  TRY TO RETAIN THE EQUIPMENT)

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#### RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT 4600 Crestmore Road, Riverside, CA 92509 • (951) 955-4310 • Fax (951) 955-4300





#### District Internal Confidential Incident Report

For property damage, automobile accidents, or non-employee injuries, use County of Riverside Confidential Incident/Accident Report (942-6)

Date of Incident:	Time:	A.M.	P.M. (Circle one)
Reported By:			
Reported To:	Contact N	umber:	
Park:			
Location of Incident:			
Was Sheriff/Local Police/Fire personnel contacted	d? YES	NO	
If Yes: Agency?	Report # (i	f any):	
Were Pictures taken or are there supporting docu	ıments? YES	NO NO	
Description of Incident: (When/Who/What/Why/	How)		
-			
<ul> <li>ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NEEDED</li> </ul>			
WITNESSES: CHECK HERE IF NO WITNESSES			
Name:			
Address:			
Name:			
Address:			
Reported by Signature:			
Supervisor's Signature:		ate:	
OF	FICE USE ONLY		
Safety Rep. Initials: Date:	Bureau Chief I	nitials: Da	te:
Manager's Signature:	Dat	te:	
			Rev: 10/17/2013 rc

1. Date of incident, time, a.m. or p.m.

- 2. Reported by whom & phone number
- 3. Reported to who & phone number
- 4. Park
- 5. Location address or location with in the park.
- 6. Was Sheriff / police called? If so, who?
- 7. Pictures?
- 8. Summary: who, what, where, when.
- 9. Witnesses
- 10. Signatures.

## Claim for Damages

If a member of the general public or a park guest requests information on any type of reimbursement, or claim direct them to the County of Riverside Clerk of the Board website @

http://www.rivcocob.org/admin
istration/

Click on Claims for Damages

SALT OF RIVERS	INSTRUCTIONS:  1. Read claim thorough	lv.		OFFICE USE ONLY		
(o/* * * ) =	Fill out claim as indic					
			ed claim form and clear readable	e copies		
*	of attachments (if any					
MAY 9, 1893	This claim form must	be signed.				
ELIVER OR U.S. MAIL TO	CLERK OF THE BOAR	D OF SUPERVI	SORS			
	ATTN: CLAIMS DIVISI P.O. BOX 1147, 4080 RIVERSIDE, CA. 9250	LEMON ST, 1 <sup>81</sup>	955-1060	TIME STAMP HERE		
FULL NAME OF CLAIMANT			8. WHY DO YOU CLAIM THE COU	NTY IS RESPONSIBLE?		
MAILING ADDRESS (STREET / PO	BOX)					
ITY	STATE ZIP CO	DE				
IOME TELEPHONE BUSINESS TELEPHONE			NAMES OF ANY COUNTY EMPLOYEES (AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS) INVOLVED IN INJURY OR DAMAGE (IF APPLICABLE).			
3. WHEN DID DAMAGE OR INJURY OCCUR (PLEASE BE EXACT)			NAME:	DEPARTMENT:		
. WHERE DID DAMAGE OR INJURY	OCCUR?		10. WITNESSESS TO DAMAGE OF PERSONS KNOWN TO HAVE INFO	R INJURY: LIST ALL PERSONS AND ADDRESSES OF RMATION:	F	
STREET CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	NAME	PHONE		
5. DESCRIBE IN DETAIL HOW DAMA	GE OR INJURY OCCURRED:		ADDRESS			
			NAME	PHONE		
			ADDRESS	<u> </u>		
			NAME	PHONE		
			ADDRESS			
			11. LIST DAMAGES INCURRED TO	DATE (attach copies of receipts or repair estimates)	_	
3. WERE POLICE OR PARAMEDICS		□ NO				
T. IF PHYSICIAN/HOSPITAL WAS VIS AND HOSPITAL'S NAME, ADDRESS	AND PHONE NUMBER:					
ATE OF FIRST VISIT	PHYSICIAN'S/HOSE	ITAL'S NAME				
PHYSICIAN'S/HOSPITAL'S ADDRESS	S PHONE:		TOTAL DAMAGES TO DATE	TOTAL ESTIMATED PROSPECTIVE DAMAGES		
	( )			\$		
HIS CLAIM MUST BE SIGN	NED TO BE VALID.	NOTE: PRESEN	TATION OF A FALSE CLAIM I	S A FELONY (PENAL CODE SECTION )	72.)	
VARNING:  > CLAIMS FOR DEAT	'H, INJURY TO PERSON OF	R TO PERSONAL	PROPERTY MUST BE FILED N	OT LATER THAN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER	R TH	
		,	THAN ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THE	OCCURRENCE. (GOVERNMENT CODE SE	стю	
> SUBJECT TO CERT	AIN EXCEPTIONS, YOU HAVE CTION, (GOVERNMENT COD	ONLY SIX (6) MO E SECTION 945.6)	NTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE V	/RITTEN NOTICE OF REJECTION OF YOUR	CLAII	
➤ IF WRITTEN NOTICE	E OF REJECTION OF YOUR CI	_AIM IS NOT GIVEI ON 945.6)	N, YOU HAVE TWO (2) YEARS FRO	DM ACCRUAL OF THE CAUSE OF ACTION TO	O FIL	
A COURT ACTION.			13. PRINT OR TYPE NAME	DATE		
2 CLAIMANT OR PERSON FILING (	ON HIS/HER BEHALF					
2. CLAIMANT OR PERSON FILING (	ON HIS/HER BEHALF		ASTAN			

# Claims for Damages cont.

- The Claim for Damages form must be completed and turned in by the claimant to the Clerk of the Board; the address and phone number are on the claim form.
- Staff may not comment on any claims to the public.
- Staff may not copy incident reports for the public.
- If someone requests a copy of an incident report please forward them to Deborah Newell 951-955-2264.

## Processing Incident Reports

Once the incident report has been completed by on site staff:

- Have site supervisor/Supervising Ranger, review & sign.
- Send via fax or e-mail, or drop off the incident report to Park Headquarters, do not send duplicate reports.
   Attn. Deborah Newell, for processing.
- Email to <u>dnewell@rivco.org</u> or fax to 951-955-4305.
- The HQ Safety Representative will process the report to include logging, management review and signature.
- The Safety Representative will forward a copy of the incident report to Risk Management and the Safety Office and file the original.
- If the incident involves a volunteer injury or accident notify Deborah Newell







