August 17, 2016

**Questions and Answers Related to Management Evaluation Reports (MER), Boards of Review (BOR), and Serious Accident Investigations**

**What is a Management Evaluation Report (MER)?**

A management evaluation report, or MER, looks at findings and causal factors related to a serious accident investigation and provides recommendations of prevention measures that management can take to prevent similar accidents from occurring. It is intended for internal use only.

**Why do you do MERs?**

The purpose of a MER is to learn more about the causes of an incident or accident and be able to take the factors that may have led to it and make recommendations for mitigating issues that could lead to a similar incident in the future. It is submitted to a Board of Review (BOR) that looks at the findings, factors, and recommendations, which are then followed up on as appropriate.

**Why is a MER not releasable to the public and not subject to FOIA?**

Given the purpose of a MER, some of the information in it may lead to misinterpretation or perceived blame, which is not the intent of the product. Information collected and developed during the course of an accident investigation is to be used for accident prevention purposes only.

**What is a Board of Review and what does it do?**

A board of review is an interdisciplinary, as well as interagency group, that reviews a MER and makes actionable recommendations in a report produced based on the findings in the MER.

**Is NPS continuing with serious accident investigation or will it be moving toward Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) and Learning Review (LR)?**

This is not yet decided. In addition to the CRP and LR team, an observation/evaluation team is in place to observe the CRP process. This is the first time that the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service have been involved in a joint CRP/MER. The observation/evaluation team will provide management with a summary report of what went well and what could be improved, as well as recommendations for the future.