

Rick Gale

Chief of Fire, Aviation and Emergency Response (retired)

United States National Park Service

Rick Gale retired in 2002 after 41 years as a Park Ranger in the United States National Park Service. Rick served in several parks in the western United States and was instrumental in developing standards and training for operations and leadership in wildland fire, search and rescue, aviation, law enforcement, special events and all-risk emergency operations.

Rick served in a variety of wildland fire collateral duty positions in logistics, operations and command up to and including Area Commander. He was on national interagency incident management teams in five separate positions at the Type I or Area Command level. He was also the first Type I all-risk Incident Commander for the National Park Service.

Rick spent twenty-five years involved with the wildland fire post graduate courses (S-520: Advanced Incident Management and S-620: Area Command) as an instructor, evaluator, unit leader and Steering Committee Chairperson.

Rick has received both the United States Department of the Interior Meritorious and Distinguished Service Awards and was the first lifetime recipient of the Harry Yount Award, awarded for his contributions to "the art and science of Rangering."