

Adjusting to Bad Driving Conditions – Heat Fatality File

Man found dead in car with 2 flat tires at Death Valley National Park amid extreme heat

A 65-year-old California man was found dead in his car in Death Valley National Park, officials said Wednesday.

Authorities from the National Park Service said in a news release that the unidentified man's death appears to have been caused by extreme heat. On Sunday, the day before the man was found dead, the high temperature was 126 degrees Fahrenheit, the park said. The overnight low temperature was 99 degrees Fahrenheit.

An initial investigation suggests that heat-related illness may have caused the driver to run off the road, the National Park Service said.

The man was found dead in his car on Monday morning, officials said. A maintenance worker noticed his vehicle about 30 yards off the park's North Highway. The vehicle had not crashed, but had two flat tires, officials said. The air-conditioning was not working, and the windows were down, providing "further indication that the air conditioning was not functioning when the man was driving," the National Park Service said.

When the employee walked to the vehicle, the man was unresponsive. Park rangers and employees from the Inyo County Sheriff's Office and Inyo County Coroner's Office were called, and the man was declared dead on the scene.