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NATION NOW

Fatal bear attack in Yellowstone is the second this summer

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A Yellowstone National Park hiker whose body was found last week was mauled and killed by a grizzly bear, a park spokesman said. The hiker was identified as 59-year-old John Wallace of Chassell, Mich. He was traveling alone and had pitch camp on Mountain Trail on Wednesday.

His body was discovered Friday morning by two hikers. An autopsy conducted on Sunday confirmed that Wallace was killed by a grizzly bear. "There was no witness to this incident and we really don't have a lot of information to help us determine why the attack occurred," park spokesman.

He said park rangers are conducting fly-overs of the area where the attack occurred.

"The next step is to see if we can find a bear, and then determine if that is the bear involved in the incident," he attack happened at all."

Wallace is the second person to die of a bear attack in the park this summer. In July, a female bear attacked a Still, bear attacks are rare at Yellowstone. No one was hurt by a bear in the park last year, and before the two bear in the park since 1986.

Nash put it this way: "In recent years we've had about one bear-caused injury for every 3 million visitors," he Park rangers and managers and wildlife biologists are still investigating just what happened to Wallace. In ea was carrying a snack bar in his closed backpack, but the bear reportedly did not try to get to that.

Visitors to Yellowstone are advised to stay on designated trails, hike in groups of three or more and be on gen recommended, and hikers are advised not to run if they encounter a bear.

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-- Deborah Netburn

Photo: A file photo released by Yellowstone National Park shows a grizzly bear moving through the brush a National Park

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