



Sheriff Joe DiSalvo
Pitkin County Sheriff's Office
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Men Rescued From Maroon Bells

Pitkin County, Colorado – August 09, 2012 – At approximately 1:40 p.m. today, the Aspen/Pitkin County Communications Center was notified of a male in distress on the traverse between Maroon Peak and North Maroon Peak. The caller stated his hiking companion, a 40 year old male, was suffering from shortness of breath and other medical issues which prevented their descent. Members of Mountain Rescue Aspen (MRA), Flight For Life, the Colorado Air National Guard's High Altitude Aviation Training Site (HAATS), Aspen Ambulance and deputies from the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office were involved in the rescue. The summits of Maroon Peak and North Maroon Peak are located approximately 10 miles south of the City of Aspen at 14,156 feet and 14,014 feet respectively.

A Blackhawk helicopter was requested from HAATS, based out of the Eagle County airport, and responded to the upper parking lot of the Maroon Lake scenic area. There it was met by members of MRA and transported them to an area close to the victim. The victim and his climbing companion were extracted from the wilderness by helicopter at approximately 5:55 pm. The victim was evaluated by Aspen Ambulance and transported to Aspen Valley Hospital for further evaluation. Flight For Life, based in Frisco, Colorado, was on stand-by at the Aspen Airport as an additional resource for the rescue.

Mountain Rescue Aspen would like to remind the community that the Elk Mountains are treacherous and climbers should be fully prepared to spend the night in the wilderness unexpectedly. In this case, the good fortune of helicopter availability and good weather allowed for a successful rescue.

No further information is available for this incident.

For more information contact:
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Our Mission: Guided by constitutional, community, and professional standards, the mission of the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office is to respect human dignity and provide the highest level of service to all. We are committed to the preservation of a peaceful, safe, and healthy environment in the spirit of openness, fairness and tolerance.