Press Release
For Immediate Release

Backcountry Skier Rescued near Mace Peak

Date of Incident: 4/18/26
Case Number: 26P004701

Pitkin County, Colorado – April 18, 2026 – One injured backcountry skier was evacuated by helicopter to Aspen Valley Health.

The Pitkin County Regional Emergency Dispatch Center (Dispatch) received a medical SOS at approximately 9:45 AM Saturday morning from Mace Peak. One member out of a party of four was injured. The call was forwarded to the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office, who in turn notified Mountain Rescue Aspen (MRA), as a backcountry rescue would be necessary.

Four members of Mountain Rescue Aspen were skiing in the area and arrived on scene as the subject was sending the SOS. MRA command contacted Flight for Life (FFL) while assembling more teams with tracked ATVs and skiers to assist with evacuation of the patient.

MRA was able to retrieve the emergency sled from the Tagert hut to evacuate the patient to a selected landing zone for FFL. The patient was loaded into FFL and transferred to AVH for further care.

All team members were out of the field at 1:10 PM. In total, 16 MRA members were involved.

The Pitkin County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the dedicated, all-volunteer team at Mountain Rescue Aspen, along with Flight for Life, for their continued service to the community. Mountain Rescue Aspen and the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office would like to remind backcountry skiers to always be prepared and carry a satellite communication device for emergencies.

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