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SHERIFF MICHAEL BUGLIONE

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## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

#### **Two climbers rescued after significant fall.**

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** July 28, 2023

**DEPUTY IN CHARGE:** Deputy Michael Schmalandt

**CASE NUMBER:** 23P007523

**Pitkin County, Colorado – July 28, 2023** – At approximately 9:15 P.M., Pitkin County Sheriff's Deputies received a call of a woman yelling for help near Weller Campground, in the White River National Forest. The Weller Campground is a small campground on Independence Pass.

A Pitkin County Sheriff's Deputy was directed to the area of the cry for help, which was at the Weller Slab climbing area, adjacent the campground. The Pitkin County Sheriff's Deputy learned both climbers had fallen nearly 60 feet. Both climbers sustained substantial injuries.

At approximately 10:20 P.M., Mountain Rescue Aspen (MRA) deployed an initial fast team of four members to Weller Campground. MRA would ultimately deploy over 20 members to rescue the climbers, including a West Elk Mountain Rescue (WEMR) member. Aspen Ambulance medics went into the field with the MRA team to tend to the climbers.

At approximately 11:19 P.M., MRA team and medics made contact with the climbers. After a patient assessment, Flight for Life Colorado was called at approximately 12:20 A.M. to transport one climber. The other climber was able to be transported by ambulance.

All of the MRA team members were out of the field at approximately 4:10 P.M.

The Pitkin County Sheriff, Michael Buglione, would like to extend his gratitude to all organizations, (MRA, WEMR, Aspen Ambulance, Flight for Life Colorado, Aspen Police Department, and John Bakken) involved in getting the climbers to medical care. Mountain Rescue Aspen would like to remind backcountry users to safety check their equipment before adventure, and always wear a helmet.

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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