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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Man Dies After Fall From North Maroon Peak

Pitkin County, Colorado – September 15, 2012 – At approximately 09:20 a.m. on Saturday, September 15, 2012 the Aspen/Pitkin County Communications Center received a report of a male climber that had fallen from North Maroon Peak. Deputies from the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office were notified and were able to speak with the reporting party via cell phone. Initial reports from the reporting party were that a male climber had been approximately 300 feet from the summit of North Maroon Peak, had fallen approximately 300 feet, was injured and was now in an area referred to as the "second gully." The extent of the climber's injuries was unknown at the time of the initial report. Members of Mountain Rescue Aspen(MRA), the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office, the US Forest Service and DBS Helicopters were activated for the rescue. North Maroon Peak is located approximately 11 miles southwest of the City of Aspen at 14,014 feet.

Shortly after the initial reports were made, climbers unrelated to the incident were able to reach the injured climber. It was determined that the injured climber had fallen anywhere from 600-1000 feet and had succumbed to the injuries sustained during the fall. DBS Helicopters of Rifle, CO was called to the scene to assist with the recovery of the body. A ground team from MRA was inserted to assist the helicopter team. At 12:10 p.m., DBS Helicopters inserted a two-person team from MRA into the field near the body of the deceased climber. Based on reports from the field, rescue personnel believe the deceased climber had been wearing a helmet but was not wearing a harness.

At 1:46 p.m., the body of the deceased climber had been recovered from the location on North Maroon Peak. As of 2:00 p.m. the foot-team members from MRA were clearing the scene and making their way out of the field. The Pitkin County Sheriff's Office believes the climber, a male, was in his 30's but has no information regarding the identity of the climber at this time. The body of the climber has been turned over to the Pitkin County Coroner's Office.

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.