



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Three Injured or Stranded Hikers are Rescued by a Multi-Agency Emergency Services Response

Flagstaff, AZ - On September 29, 2007 at approximately 4 p.m. Coconino County Sheriff's Deputies and Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Volunteers responded along with Guardian Medical Transport and Summit Fire District to a report of a fall injury on the Weatherford Trail in the area of Schultz Tank. The victim was a 77 year old female who was hiking with a group when she suffered non-life-threatening injuries after falling to the ground. Search and Rescue Volunteers assisted with a litter carry from the scene to a safe area where Guardian Medical Transport was staged. The victim was transported to the Flagstaff Medical Center where she was treated for her injuries.

On September 29, 2007 at approximately 5 p.m. Deputies and Search and Rescue Volunteers responded to a report of an overdue hiker on the San Francisco Peaks. The 45 year old female intended to hike from Inner Basin to the Humphrey's Saddle and then down to the Humphrey's Trail Head. When she did not arrive at the Humphrey's Trail Head as expected her hiking companions reported her overdue to the Sheriff's Office. A search was initiated in the area and the subject was located as she walked into the trail head. She stated that she had hiked to the Humphrey's summit where the winds were extremely strong and caused a delay in her travels.

On October 2, 2007 at approximately 2 p.m. Emergency Communication Specialists of the Northern Arizona Regional 911 Reception Center were notified of a fall victim at Mooney Falls in Supai Canyon. Two members of the Sheriff's Office Short Haul Rescue Team flew in to the location on board the Arizona Department of Public Safety Air Rescue helicopter. The deputies performed a short haul rescue of the 54 year old female who had sustained a hip injury after falling to the ground. The victim was extricated from the Mooney Falls area to a safe landing zone she was transferred to another Air Rescue helicopter for transport to Flagstaff Medical Center.

Sheriff Bill Pribil and the men and women of the Coconino County Sheriff's Office would like to remind the public of some simple safety tips that will help make your hiking experience safe and enjoyable:

- If you have any medical conditions, discuss your plans with your health care provider and get approval before departing.

- Review the equipment, supplies and skills that you'll need. Consider what emergencies could arise and how you would deal with those situations. What if you got lost, or were unexpectedly confronted by an animal? What if someone became ill or injured? What kind of weather might you encounter?
- Make sure you have the skills you need for your camping or hiking adventure. You may need to know how to read a compass, erect a temporary shelter or give first aid. Practice your skills in advance.
- If your trip will be strenuous, get into good physical condition before setting out. If you plan to climb or travel to high altitudes, make plans for proper acclimatization to the altitude.
- It's safest to hike or camp with at least one companion. If you'll be entering a remote area, your group should have a minimum of four people; this way, if one is hurt, another can stay with the victim while two go for help. If you'll be going into an area that is unfamiliar to you, take along someone who knows the area or at least speak with those who do before you set out.
- Some areas require you to have reservations or certain permits. If an area is closed, do not go there. Find out in advance about any regulations--there may be rules about campfires or guidelines about wildlife.
- Pack emergency signaling devices, and know ahead of time the location of the nearest telephone or ranger station in case an emergency does occur on your trip.
- Leave a copy of your itinerary with a responsible person. Include such details as the make, year, and license plate of your car, the equipment you're bringing, the weather you've anticipated and when you plan to return.

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