



# OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tracy LeClair  
(970) 423-8903

[TracyL@co.summit.co.us](mailto:TracyL@co.summit.co.us)

### **FOR THE SUMMIT COUNTY RESCUE GROUP, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A TYPICAL RESCUE**

SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO – When members of the Summit County Rescue Group (SCRG) get called out, they know there's no such thing as a "typical" rescue mission. On July 25, over 20 members of the SCRG, Summit County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), and Summit County Ambulance Service responded to a call that at first seemed fairly ordinary, but quickly proved to be a bit more challenging.

The prior day, a male and a female from Broomfield, Colorado, both fairly experienced hikers, had hiked up the west ridge of Quandary with their two dogs. On the way down, they took a wrong turn and ended up "cliffed out" at the edge of an approximately 200-foot-high vertical drop, said Mark Watson, SCSO Special Operations Technician. To add to seriousness of their situation, a storm front moved in and the couple's backpack, which held their gear, food and water, fell over the edge of the cliff. According to Watson, the couple built a rock shelter and spent the night, sharing body heat with each other and the dogs. The next morning, the male hiker was able to make his way down to their vehicle and call 911.

Rescuers had to scale some very technical terrain in deteriorating weather conditions before they were able to reach the woman and dogs, all of whom were exhausted and dehydrated. The female was able to walk out with assistance, but the dogs were unable to follow. Always up for a challenge, two SCRG members emptied the contents of their packs and repelled down the 200-foot cliff with the dogs, Loki and Lily, in their packs.

Sheriff John Minor praised the efforts of everyone involved in rescue mission, stating, "The Summit County Rescue Group is a team of consummate professionals. This is just one example of their quick thinking and willingness to go beyond expectations and get the job done."

SCRG is a team of approximately 65 all-volunteer members that depends upon grants and donations from the community for training, equipment and expenses. In 2011, they dedicated more than 12,000 hours to respond to calls for assistance in the backcountry, in addition to 6,000 hours of training. For more information or to donate, visit their website at <http://www.scrg.org>.

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**Attachments: Quandary Dogs1.jpg; Quandary Dogs2.jpg; Quandary Dogs3.jpg (other photos available upon request)**