

CONTACT:
Tanny M. McGinnis
Community Relations Deputy
Garfield County Sheriff's Office
107 8th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

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PRESS RELEASE GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Garfield County, Colorado;

A mock crisis drill will be held on September 19, 2009 in Rifle, CO from approximately 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm at the Rifle Fire Department. The scenario will include a multi-vehicle collision at the intersection of Highway 6 & 24 and the Rifle by-pass, and will involve one semi-truck and two Garfield Re-2 School District school buses.

This exercise will include response from multiple agencies and over 125 volunteers including many Garfield Re-2 students, and members of the Garfield County 4-H Club. Many of the participants will be dressed in full moulage make-up for triage and training purposes.

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure consistency between responding agencies with regard to response, communications, and equipment. These types of drills are a vital part of the incident command system, which has been implemented to aid in the efficiency of responding agencies and the safety of the community. An event such as this gives all responding agencies the opportunity to work together and fine-tune their response to a mass casualty or large scale event before it happens.

Citizens driving in the area of Hwy 6 & 24 and the Rifle bypass during this event need to be advised that this is only an exercise and not an actual incident. Response vehicles will include the Garfield County Sheriff's Office, the Garfield County RE-2 School District, Rifle Fire Department, Rifle Police Department, Grand River Hospital District and surrounding emergency service agencies.