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SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 2, 2010 (9:10 p.m.)

RIVER RESCUE OPERATION TO CONTINUE FOR SECOND DAY

GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo. – At approximately 3:18 p.m. this afternoon, Dispatch received a call of a male in his early twenties in the Colorado River near the No Name area (mile marker 119 on Interstate 70). Three people were attempting to cross the river in an old cable basket via pulley system (not the new zip line installation) just above the water's surface.

Due to the high water level, the cable basket came in contact with the fast moving water (approximately flowing at 8,010 cfs). The water tipped the device, and the young man fell into the river. He and the others were not wearing personal floatation devices. The other two members were able to return to shore in the basket.

Garfield County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (a.k.a. Garfield County Search and Rescue, Inc.) responded to the area and searched the river downstream from No Name to approximately Glenwood Springs. Rescue operations have been suspended for the night, and the team will resume search and rescue activities early tomorrow morning.

Over 15 search and rescue personnel, as well as Garfield County Sheriff's Office deputies and specialists, Glenwood Springs Police and Fire Departments, Colorado State Patrol and Colorado Department of Transportation were involved in today's operation. Searchers from a private rafting company also aided in the effort.

Any media requesting further on-site coverage should contact Phil Strouse at 970-309-9697 or pstrouse@garcosheriff.com as the operational area next to the river is on private property.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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