



PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT | Annie Bierbower | 970-658-5502 or abierbower@poudre-fire.org

PFA Firefighters were dispatched to a rescue at Horsetooth Falls at 1:34 p.m. on June 23. The Engine 9 crew was the first on scene and joined by a UCHealth ambulance and additional PFA resources.

The crew located the patient on a rock terrace about 50 ft. below the top of the falls and decided the best route to them was from above. From there, responders were able to make visual and verbal contact with the patient who said they believed they could walk with assistance.

Employing high-angle rescue techniques, one firefighter was harnessed and lowered to the patient. This firefighter did an initial assessment of the patient and stayed by their side for the remainder of the incident. The patient was also harnessed to prevent any further falls and injuries. The patient was transported to the top of the falls and then driven down to the awaiting UCHealth ambulance.

High angle rescues can be technical. Responders that take part participate in ongoing training to perfect their skills with rope systems and navigating the wide variety of terrain where they may be needed.

People out hiking or climbing in the Horsetooth area, or any other area, are encouraged to:

- Always recreate with a partner.
- Let someone know when you're going and when you'll return.
- Bring the minimum essentials which include snacks, water, sunscreen and equipment for your activity.
- Know your limits.
- Be aware of the potential for high winds and loose rocks.