



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Nine People Rescued from the Poudre River**

Poudre Fire Authority and partner agencies were dispatched to a water rescue on the Poudre River near Lions Open Space on Overland Trail at 3:17 p.m. today. Bystanders reportedly saw rafters in need of assistance and heard calls for help. PFA Engine 7 was the first on scene at 3:21 p.m. and began scanning the river and area.

Crews located eight people on an island-like structure in the Poudre River about a quarter mile east of Overland Trail. One patient was receiving CPR which responders were able to take over. A ninth person was in a tree in the river. All nine patients were rescued and one person was transported by Lifeline helicopter.

Engine 7 was joined by Engines 2, 4, and 12 and Tower 1 and Ladder 5 for a total of 27 PFA firefighters assisting in the rescue. River rescues are resource intensive and physically intensive for responders. Responders are also needed down river as a second string of support in case anyone, a patient or responder, is carried further down river. “We can’t underestimate this river,” said the battalion chief on scene. It is as unpredictable as it is strong and responders train intensively to prepare for swiftwater rescues.

PFA responded to 21 water rescues in 2018 and there is one missing rafter this season. PFA never sees the river as safe or recommends river recreation, but if you do choose to recreate in or near the river please consider the following tips.

### **Safety Tips**

- Always wear a personal flotation device that is rated for your activity. Not all life vests are the same and the Poudre River is currently flowing high and fast.
- Remember that the river water is significantly colder than you may anticipate. It is currently around 48 degrees Fahrenheit and people can easily experience hypothermia when in the water.
- Scout your route the day of your water recreation. The river can change in a matter of hours. An area that appears free of obstacles in the morning could have several obstacles by the afternoon.
- Float sober – the unpredictability and variety of obstacles in the river requires your full, unimpaired attention.
- Always crawl out of the river to avoid foot entrapment near the shore.
- Never underestimate the power of the water.

**Reach or Throw, Don’t Go.** If someone is caught in fast moving water, reach out to them or throw a rope to the person in the water. Don’t go into the water yourself or you may also become in need of rescuing. Call 911 immediately with as many details as possible about the location.