Reporting an Incident

Why report an incident?

The USFS is often understaffed and lacks the resources necessary to cover the entire Forest at any given time. Having volunteers in the ground greatly helps us have more eyes and ears in the Forest. Over time, Incident Reports can be used to fight for more funding for more employees on the district. Note that any incident involving USFS personnel or Law Enforcement will be reported by those individuals. Only report incidents when they are not present.

What do we want reported?

- Backpackers going into Indian Peaks Wilderness without a permit.
- Reports of illegal campfires (are they banned in certain spots? Are we in a burn ban?)
- Wheeled devices or motorized equipment at Monarch Lake or in any Wilderness. (Wheelchairs are an exception)
- Dogs off leash
- Dog bites
- Abandoned camps and property.
- Abundant trash and littler (a granola bar wrapper is no big deal, but did someone come to Monarch and make a huge mess?)
- Illegal campsites at Monarch or in any Wilderness.

When should I call 911?

- Safety threats
- Alcohol/drug related conflicts
- Injuries that require Grand County Search and Rescue.

What information is required to have an Incident Report?

- Date & time of the incident OR report.
- Was the subject at the site when you observed the violation? If so, did you attempt to educate them? How was their demeanor? Did you gain compliance?
- Coordinates/location of where the incident occurred.
- Photos of the scene. **Do not take photos of the subject.**
- Written description of the incident.
- Any identifying information. Did you see their license plate when the arrived or departed? Did they have gear with their name on it? **Do not ask for their name or date of birth.**

High quality reports only please! If you do not have the above details, please don't report it.

What to do with Reports

Fill out the Incident Reporting Form in the binder. Take a photo of the completed form and send it in an email to sara.oliver@usda.gov with any photos you took.