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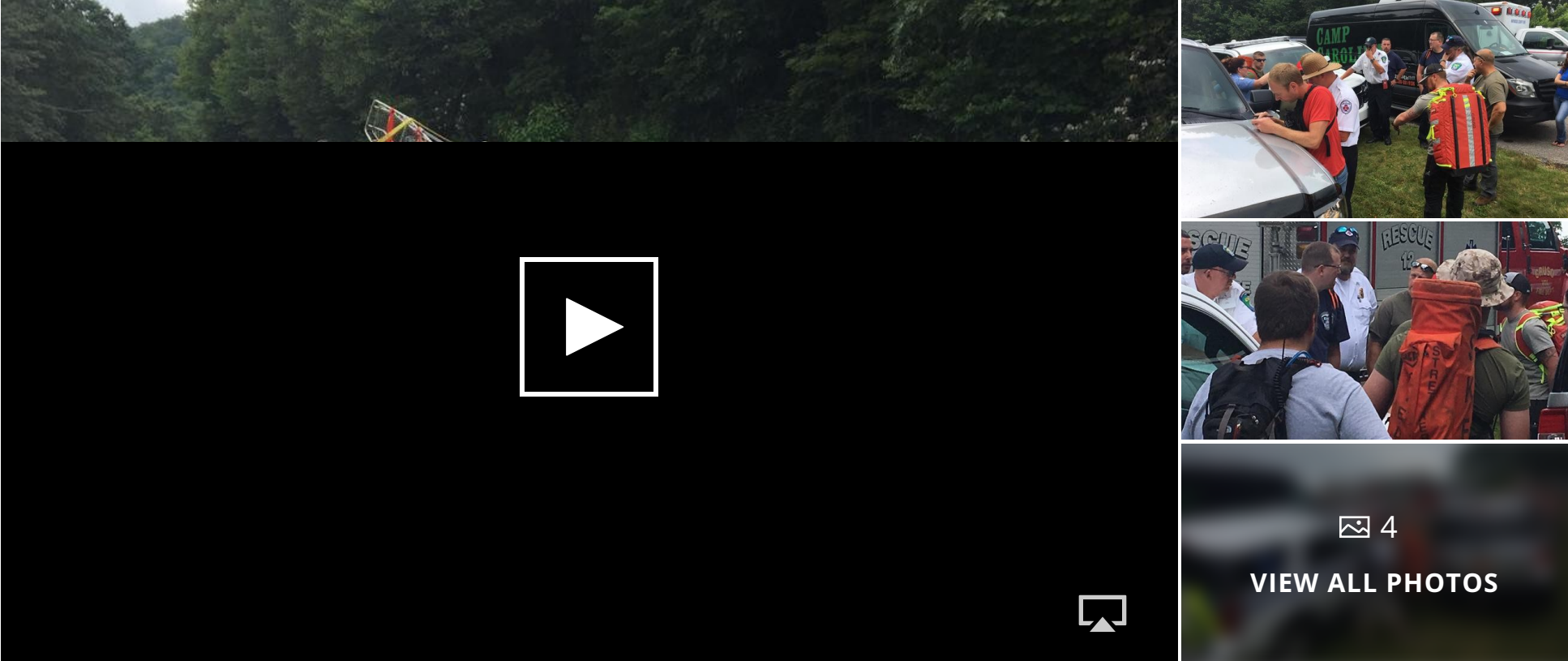
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Crews rescue hiker who fell at Yellowstone Falls

by Evan Donovan and Elizabeth Burch | Wednesday, July 12th 2017



Haywood County EOC said they received a report that a person fell from Yellowstone Falls, near Graveyard Fields. (Photo credit: WLOS Staff)



HAYWOOD COUNTY, N.C. (WLOS) — Haywood County crews worked about seven hours to rescue a hiker who fell near Yellowstone Falls on Wednesday afternoon.

A group of hikers called 911 just after 2 p.m., saying a hiker was injured when he fell off the falls.

About 45 rescue workers from around the area responded to the call.

Evan Donovan

@EvanDonovan · Follow

#BREAKING: Crews gather near Graveyard Fields, responding to reports of a fallen/injured hiker. More info as I get it and on @WLOS_13 at 5/6

3:33 PM · Jul 12, 2017

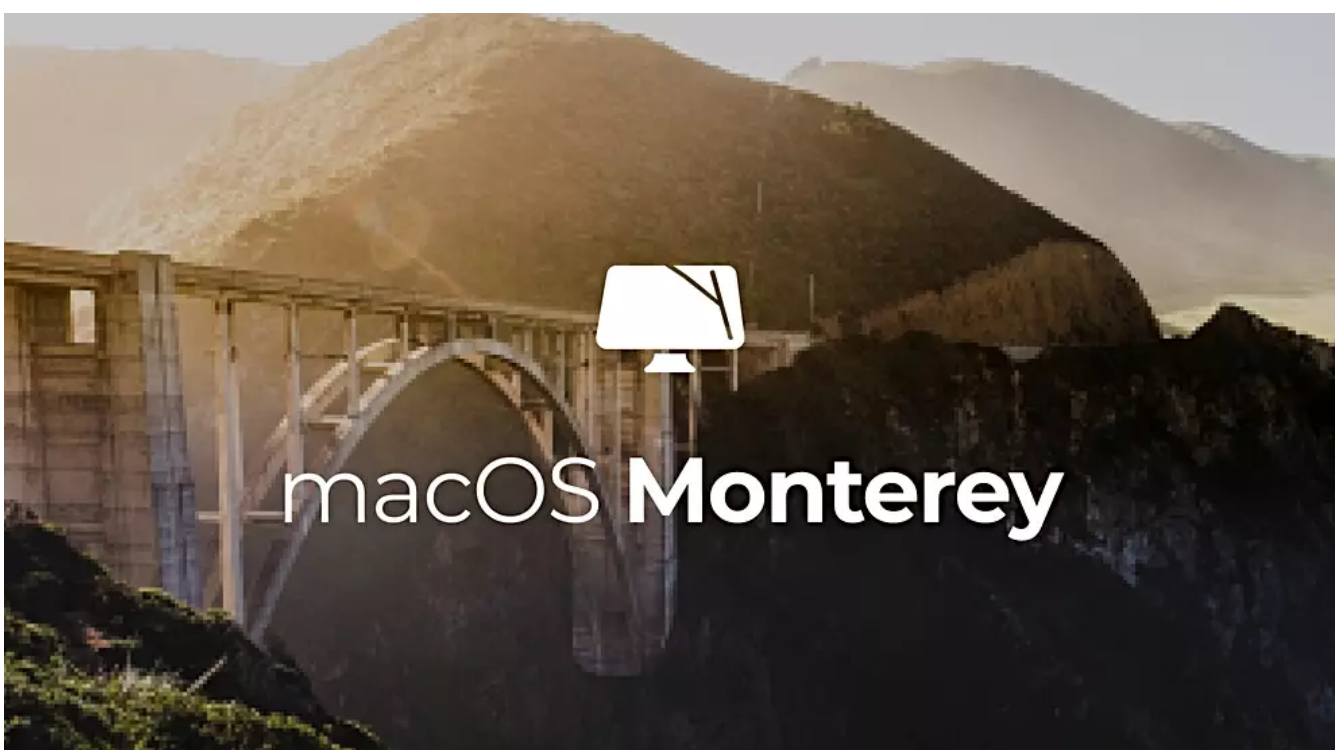
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When crews arrived, they spent about an hour trying to figure out where they should attempt the rescue. The 911 caller said the group was at Yellowstone Falls, but cell phone location pings put the victim nowhere near the falls.

"The challenge we have in mountainous terrain is where a caller says they are versus the cell phone coordinates we get when a person calls 911," Haywood County Emergency Management Director Greg Shuping said.

Rescuers hiked in at Graveyard Fields and made contact with the victim within half an hour. They workers broke into four teams and attempted what crews said was a dangerous, high-angle rescue in steep terrain.

Initial rescue crews to make contact called for a helicopter to get the victim out, but the steep terrain and rainfall eliminated that option.

Evan Donovan

@EvanDonovan · Follow

Likely scenario now is the 2nd crew will help perform a "high-angle, steep rescue, very dangerous" from #Yellowstone Falls. -Shuping

4:50 PM · Jul 12, 2017

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A group of about half a dozen rescuers made contact about 4:15 p.m. with the hiker, who told them he fell and cannot feel his legs. The hiker was also fighting hypothermia as rain falls and the sun sets.

Liz Burch

@LizBurchTV · Follow

Breaking: crews successfully bring patient up from Yellowstone Falls and transport them to ambulance. @WLOS_13

9:16 PM · Jul 12, 2017

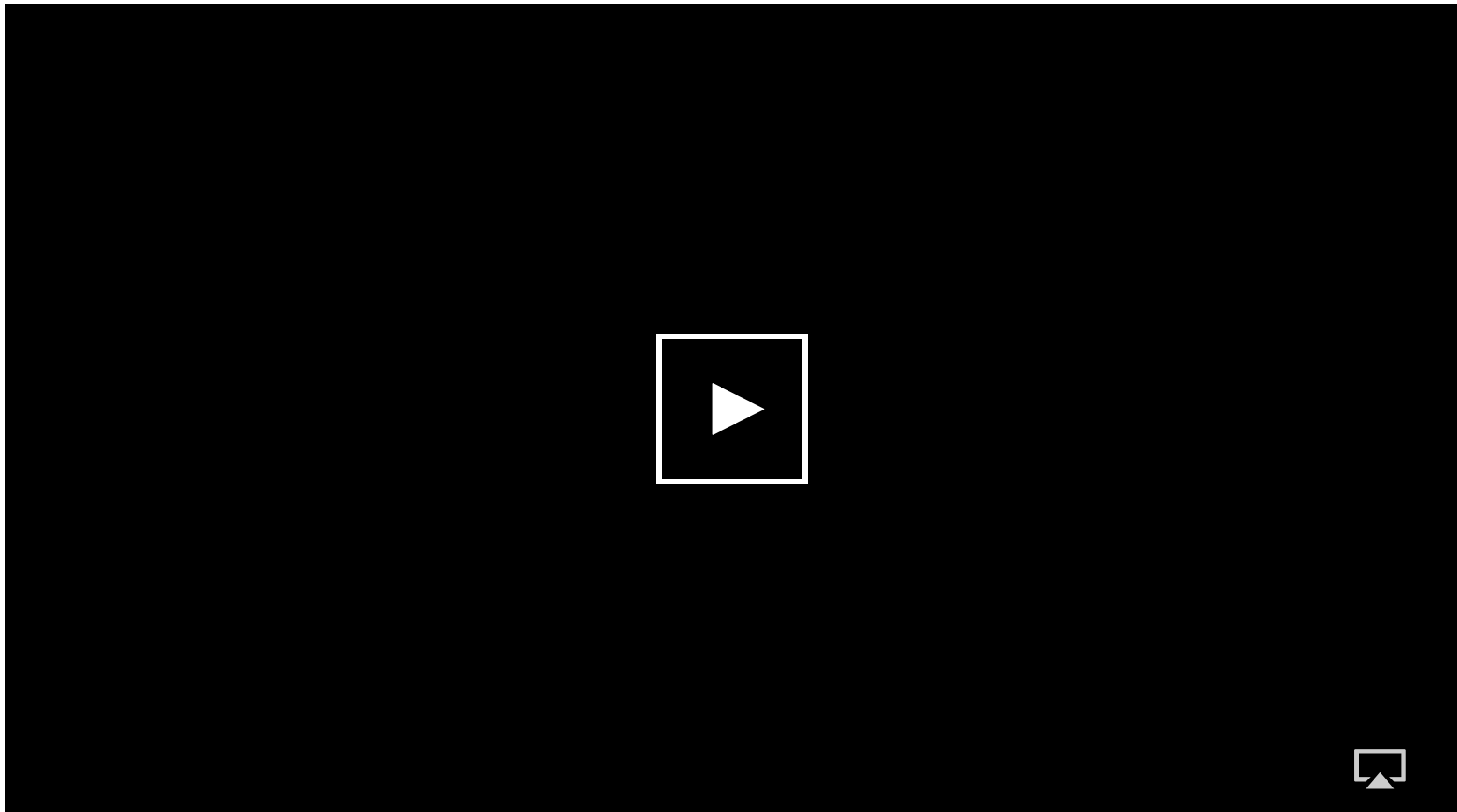
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Finally, about 9 p.m., crews brought the man up the side of the mountain. They took him by ambulance down the mountain to Pounding Mill Overlook, where a helicopter was waiting to take him to the hospital.



WLOS

The man's name hasn't been released, nor has the extent of his injuries.

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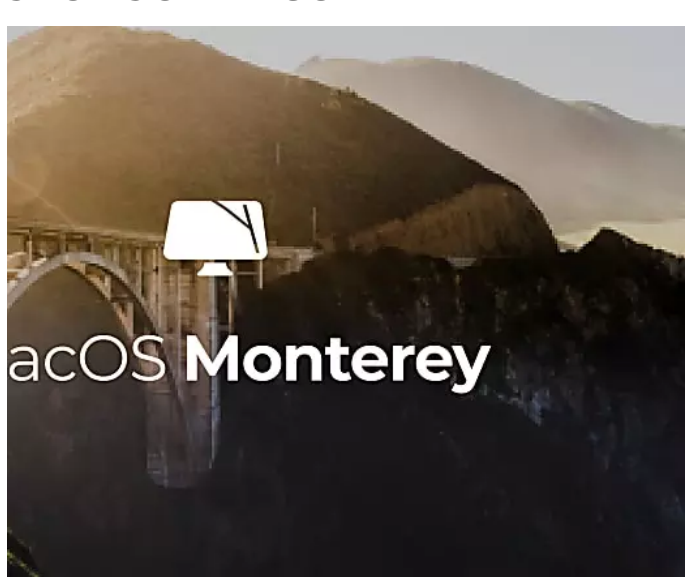


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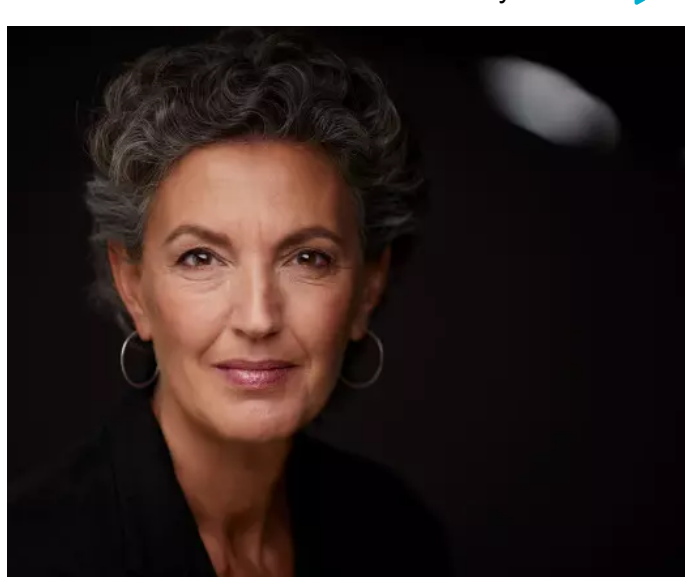
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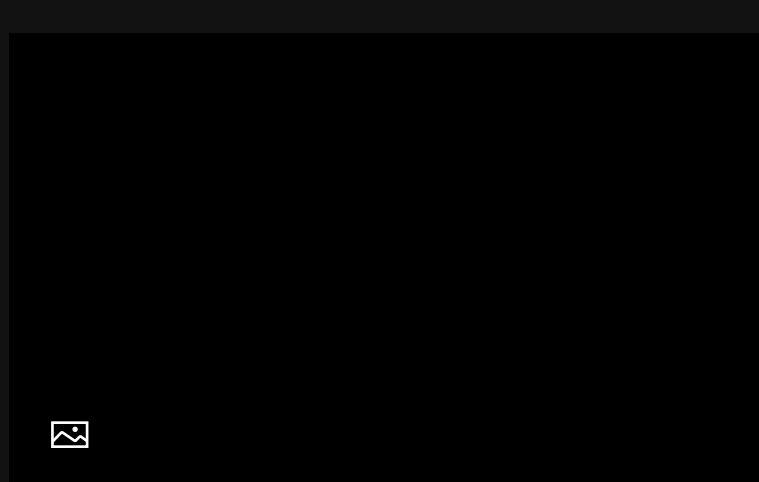
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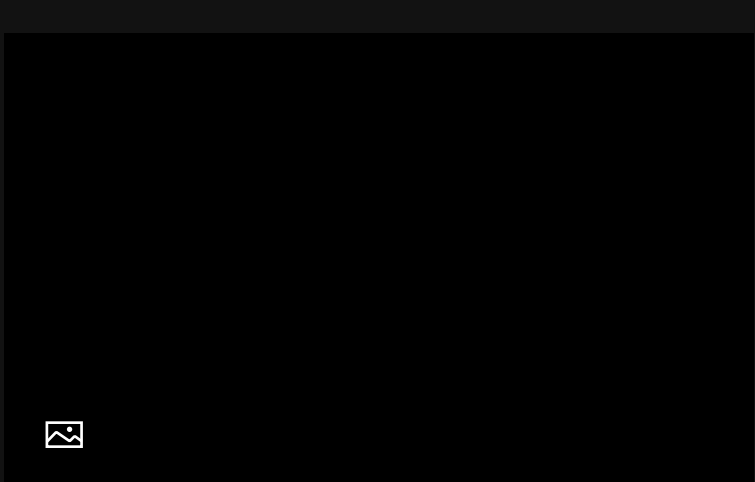
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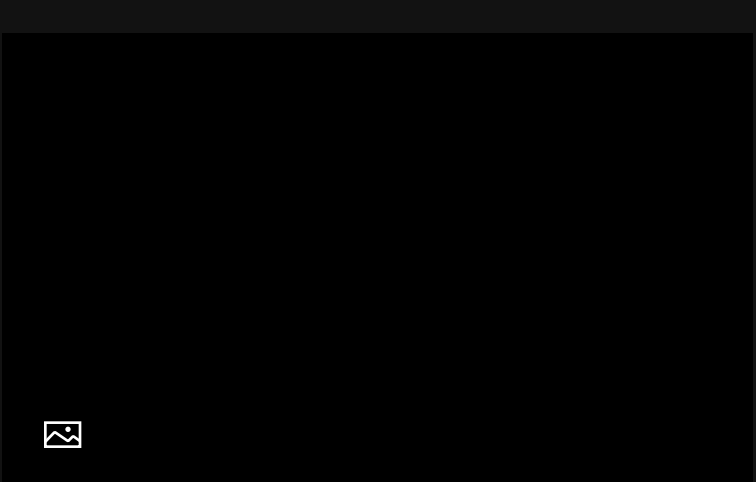
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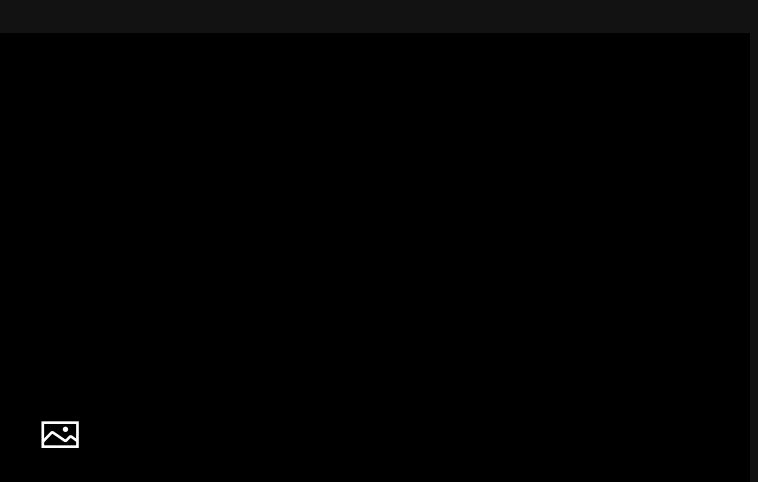
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