

A man and his 8-year old nephew were airlifted to Johnson City Medical Center mid afternoon Saturday after the 4-wheeler they were riding blew a tire and wrecked on U.S. 321 in Sugar Grove. The 4-wheeler hit a guardrail near Guy Ford Road, according to State Patrol Sgt. R.D. Smith, the impact throwing both riders from the vehicle, the child, down an embankment off of the road. Cove Creek first responders and Watauga Rescue responded just after 3pm for the possible carry-out of the child, while a landing zone was set up on the 321 bridge over the Watauga River. Arriving Watauga Medics called for a second chopper, and WINGS Air Rescue sent both WINGS 2 and 4, and in rapid succession, picked up both the injured. The man reportedly suffered a chest injury, the child a severe cut in the crash, being investigated by trooper Alexander, whose report was not complete late yesterday.