

Injured Climber Plucked From Side of Cliff

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A dramatic rescue captured late yesterday afternoon in the Linville Gorge as a young man fell 20 to 40 feet while rappelling on the face of Shortoff mountain, landing precariously on a very small outcropping. The mid afternoon fall led rescuers to call for the National Guard rescue crew out of Salisbury to head to the scene and execute a dramatic rescue, all captured from a second chopper from Channel 9 in Charlotte. The 23-year old, injured in the fall, was strapped to a folding basket lowered to the site, one of the two rescuers lowered from the chopper leaving the ledge with him as he was hoisted to the Blackhawk, which then pulled the remaining rescuers from the ledge before meeting a Carolinas Medical Center chopper for the flight to an area hospital. Rescuers told channel 9 that the man was in severe pain when they reached him, but injuries did not appear life threatening.

Photos: WSOC-TV