

# Climber takes life-threatening fall

A climber fell 125 feet while free climbing in Smith Rock State Park last weekend. He was taken to St. Charles Hospital in Bend with life-threatening injuries.

On Sunday, August 26, at approximately 4:04 p.m., Deschutes County deputies, Redmond Fire medics and members of the Deschutes County Search and Rescue MRU and medical teams were dispatched to a serious fall in the southern-most area of Smith Rock State Park.

Sheriff's deputies and Redmond Fire medics hiked into the park and reached the patient, Benjamin Schulman, age 21, of Alexandria, Virginia, on a steep hill about 100 yards above the river trail. They provided care until Deschutes County Search and Rescue personnel arrived to assist with the hillside evacuation. This process took over two hours because of Schulman's location and injuries.

The initial investigation determined that Schulman was visiting the park with friends when he chose

to solo free-climb a rock face not typically used or identified as a climbing route in the most southern section of the park. Schulman was not using ropes or other safety equipment and only handholds and footholds to ascend when he fell approximately 125 feet to the ground. After falling, Schulman rolled down a steep hill another 100 feet before coming to rest mid-slope.

Rescue personnel extracted Schulman from the hillside and carried him to a nearby meadow where an AirLink helicopter was waiting. He was flown to St. Charles Hospital Bend for advanced care of his life-threatening injuries.



PHOTO PROVIDED

An AirLink helicopter transported a fallen climber to St. Charles Hospital in Bend with life-threatening injuries on Sunday.

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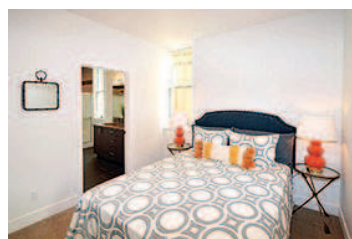


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