

OSP trooper recovering in Bend hospital after 50-foot fall from cliff

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. -- An Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife trooper is resting comfortably in a Bend hospital after surviving a 50-foot fall down a cliff Tuesday morning while helping ODFW conduct a big horn sheep census in Grant County. OSP Sergeant Gordon Larson with Senior Trooper Johnson's wife and son watching Air Life prepare for takeoff from Blue Mountain Hospital - OSP photo OSP Senior Trooper Larry Johnson was with two ODFW employees conducting an annual big horn sheep census near Aldrich Mountain in a remote area south of Dayville when the accident occurred about 8 a.m., June 10.

Johnson was moving along the edge of a cliff, he momentarily grabbed a tree and the tree gave way and he lost his footing. The trooper fell about 50 feet vertically down the cliff, suffering a lower right leg injury. The ODFW employees were able to get down to the injured trooper, and with their assistance he crawled about 1/2 mile to their parked ATV (all terrain vehicle). Johnson was transported via ATV over ten miles of rugged country before they reached a pickup, then he was driven nearly 25 miles to Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day.

After an initial examination by doctors, Johnson was transported by Air Life air ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center for continued medical evaluation and treatment. He is in stable condition. Senior Trooper Johnson, 38, is a 14 1/2 year OSP veteran assigned to the OSP Fish & Wildlife Division. He has worked out of the OSP John Day work site since April 2001.

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