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Video: Man climbs out of crevasse after 70-foot fall



John All, a Western Kentucky University professor, almost died last week when he fell 70 feet into a crevasse on Mount Himlung in Nepal's Himalayan Mountains. After his fall, All suffered five broken ribs, a broken arm, dislocated shoulders and internal bleeding.

"Well, I'm pretty well f—," All said on camera from inside the crevasse. It took him six hours to crawl out — and he got part of the ordeal on camera:

All did not have a radio, so struggled for another three hours back to his tent. He used his satellite messenger to request help. Due to bad weather, helicopters were unable to rescue him until the following morning. According to the crisis response firm Global Rescue, All was coached through the night by critical care paramedics via two-way satellite text message.

All and his research team were collecting samples of ice and snow to study pollution and try to learn how fast Himalayan glaciers are melting. They had planned to climb Mount Everest, but because of the death of 16 Sherpa guides in an avalanche, Everest was closed. All told the Telegraph:

Your survival instinct kicks in and that's why I filmed the video — I couldn't allow myself any doubt.

According to the Associated Press, All is an experienced climber who tackled Everest in 2010. He plans to head to Peru next month for his next mountaineering trip. After his rescue, he thanked his supporters on Facebook:



John All

· May 21 at 9:29am ·

Profile

Thanks everyone for the love and support. When I was shivering and bleeding and waiting for the chopper, the things I heard from the sat link kept me going. Rebecca Cole and Carl Schmitt worked via satellite to link me to the chopper and Sujana Bhattarai got everything wired so I rolled out of the chopper into an ambulance (with a gurney that was so short I had to bend and lift my legs in the air so they could close the ambulance door).

I checked myself out of the ICU today after a miraculous night of healing - not really an hospital type of guy. Injuries across my body but no single one will kill me - although I need to consult Alex Stella on this. The worst was having a dislocated shoulder for 32 hours before they could re-set it - worst pain I have ever felt. Broken bones were only a humerus and five ribs - although the humerus will probably require surgery at some point. The internal bleeding has stopped and they said the accumulated blood will go away. Smashed knee, scarred left eye that won't open all of the way, and that's about it. I landed on my right arm and side so both of my feet and legs were dangling over the void and miraculously unharmed.

I am ready for a safe trip to Peru, but first I will work on interviews with Janardan Mainali on climate change impacts in local mountain communities for my last couple of weeks. It will be a great distraction during the healing process.

Thank you again for all of your wonderful, crucial support. I wouldn't have survived without it. I wish I could list everyone by name, but know I am reading your posts and email as I lay on the hotel bed in Kathmandu and am thankful for all of you.

John