

Texas State student survives 34 foot drop into rocky waters

By Eli Schoolar

CANYON LAKE - 18-year-old Maggie Douglass fell 34 ft. from a Canyon Lake trail last Thursday, coming out of a comatose state three days after.

Doctors from the emergency clinic initiated Maggie's coma after receiving a 9-1-1 call from a fisherman immediately after her drop. The quick response of medical assistance allowed Maggie to escape with her life, without sustaining any permanent damage.

"I was so scared. All I remember is falling and waking up in a hospital. I am just so thankful that someone saw me fall," Douglass said. "I just don't know what happened. I love running along the water and do it every chance I get – at least twice a week."

As a Texas State student, Maggie would come out to Canyon Lake often to train her running. A misstep on the trail was all it took to send her plummeting, taking her, and the fisherman who saw her fall, by surprise.

"She hit the water hard," said fisherman and boat mechanic Randy Davis, age 52. "When I seen her fall, I immediately called 911. I tried to drive my boat over to her, but the water was extremely rough that day and those rocks don't make it any easier. Luckily, EMS came and was able to get her out faster than I could. I'm just glad to hear she's going to be OK."

The medical aid responsible for Maggie's recovery were thrilled to find that she would completely heal — her wounds were so severe that her life truly was on the line.

"I have treated individuals who have fallen before, but I cannot recall seeing anyone as lucky as this young woman," said lead surgeon Blaine Holland, age 38. "She came in with a broken arm, broken ribs, and many cuts and abrasions. However, it was her head injury that troubled us the most. We placed her in a medically induced coma to allow the swelling on her brain to reduce. When we brought her out of this coma, we were shocked and excited to see that she had no apparent permanent damage. We feel she will make a full recovery."

It's encouraged to call 9-1-1 immediately after witnessing any fall taller than 15 ft. A few minutes on the phone could save somebody's life.