Calgary climber survives 20-metre plunge

BY JENNA MCMURRAY ,CALGARY SUN

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CALGARY -

First responders and search specialists from the Pincher Creek, Alta., area worked together Saturday to rescue an injured climber from Calgary.

About 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Fire Rescue and RCMP learned a climber had fallen on Victoria Peak, about 20 km south of Pincher Creek.

The 50-year-old Calgary man was descending the mountain from the summit when he fell while crossing a snowy area and slid about 20 metres into a tree, Mounties said.

He suffered serious, but non-life-threatening chest injuries and was unable to continue down the mountain.

First responders and Pincher Creek Search and Rescue personnel hiked about 3 km to stabilize the injured man, reportedly part of a group of six climbers, though only four reached the mountain's summit.

Alpine Helicopters public safety helicopter from Canmore, Alta., was used to bring more helpers to the mountain and lift the patient out with a sling.

The man was taken to hospital by ground ambulance and is expected to recover.

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