

I am Barb Hartwig, sister-in-law of Miyuki, and this is Yoshi, her brother from Japan. We are here to read a statement from Miyuki. She is doing well and in good spirits despite some serious, but not life threatening, injuries. She is bedridden and has injuries to both legs and her back. She had temporary surgery Saturday night to repair her left broken leg and will have more surgery on that leg within the next few weeks. Her right ankle is also broken and will be surgically repaired maybe at the same time as her left leg. She has a compression fracture to her lumbar spine.

Here is Miyuki's story in her words: "On Thursday, August 20, our group had been together hiking, the 6th day of an 8-day trip, and this day was a day trip so we were up on Black Cap Mountain. After summiting, I decided to start back to camp ahead of the group and I regret it. It was getting dark. I tried to get back to the camp site but fell off the cliff. I landed on both legs. I was conscious the whole time and wanting to get back to camp the next day. After I fell, my left leg hurt and I took my boots off and stayed overnight there. The next morning I realized that I could not stand up with either leg. I saw all the choppers flying over me the next day but towards the end of the day they called off the rescue because of the smoke. At the same time, my 1 liter water bottle was getting low. In order for me to survive, I knew I needed water and I heard water running below me. For the next two days, I crawled down to the water and luckily I had a water filter. I pumped 1 liter of water everyday and drank it there. Everyday I saw choppers for awhile that were far away from me. At night, I slept on the ground with my medium-weight jacket. It was very cold at night. During the five days there, I spent every day colder and colder and would lie in the sun a few hours each day. On Friday, August 28, there was a rescue team in the area and I blew my whistle but they did not hear me. On Saturday, August 29, I thought this was the last chance to do something for me to survive and I heard voices talking so I blew my whistle again and they responded with my name. They were at a distance and kept calling my name and asking where I was. I kept blowing my whistle and answered their calls. When I first saw them, it was a miracle and I was emotional. The rescue team all came down to me and stayed with me while the doctor with the team stabilized my left leg. I was carried by stretcher to the open area where the helicopter landed to pick me up. "

"I greatly appreciate the rescuers who found me and had not given up hope to find me. Thank you to my family, friends, ~~and~~ coworkers, I am doing okay and would like to concentrate on my recovery. Thank you so much."

*and the
Sierra Club.*