

WSU Student falls three stories

Man allegedly tried to scale down balcony; taken to Spokane for treatment

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A 22-year-old Washington State University student was hospitalized after falling three stories off a balcony at the Boulder Creek Apartments in Pullman on Friday night.

Pullman Police Sgt. Dan Dorness said the man was drinking alcohol at the complex on Northeast Terre View Drive with a friend who reported to officers the student claimed he could climb from the third-story balcony to the second.

The man's friend stated he stopped him once, but the man tried again and slipped and fell, Dorness said, adding he was found unconscious on the ground when officers arrived.

He was transported to Pullman Regional Hospital, which reported to police around 4:30 a.m. that the man was flown to a Spokane hospital for treatment by a neurosurgeon.

This is one of several incidents of college students suffering serious injuries after alcohol-related falls so far this semester. A 19-year-old WSU student fell from the third floor of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity house Sept. 14 and a University of Idaho student suffered serious injuries after falling two stories from his Alpha Tau Omega fraternity two days prior. A 19-year-old UI student was also hospitalized on Aug. 23 after falling 20 feet down an embankment on Taylor Avenue. Alcohol has been cited as a factor in each event.

The last time a fall by a college student was fatal was May 3, 2009, when police discovered the body of 21-year-old WSU senior Stuart Robertson, who fell 40 feet off a cliff near the Pullman-Moscow Highway.

Dorness said incidents of people being injured in falls while intoxicated is fairly common annually.