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Adventurer Bear Grylls injured in Antarctica

Bear Grylls, host of Discovery Channel's "Man vs. Wild," was injured Friday night while on an expedition in Antarctica unrelated to his duties for the network. The British adventurer fell and injured his shoulder while taking part in an expedition for Ethanol Ventures to promote the potential of alternative energies like bioethanol. Discovery said in a statement.

Grylls on Sunday was headed to the U.K. to get medical attention. The severity of the injury wasn't immediately released. "Bear has a strong religious faith and a loving family to help speed his recovery," Discovery said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Bear as he makes the long trip back to the U.K."

The Antarctica expedition was raising money for Global Angels, an international charity that champions the needs of children. Grylls has supported the charity for the past few years. Grylls rose to international fame with "Man vs. Wild," each episode of which finds him parachuting into a different uninhabited territory without a map or much else in the way of camping equipment. He then spends several days trying to find his way back to civilization.

In one notable episode, burning up in the heat of the Moab desert, he urinated on his own T-shirt, which he then wrapped around his head to cool his soaring body temperature. Another time, he hungrily bit the heads off maggots he found in a frozen animal carcass crushed by an avalanche, cheerfully explaining they were a good source of nutrition.

But last year, it was revealed that elements of the series were faked. On a few occasions, he checked into motels when he was depicted on TV as having slept under the stars. Discovery aired re-edited episodes, with disclaimers and new voiceovers.

Daily Mail.co.uk

'Shock and agony': Dangerous airlift rescue for injured explorer Bear Grylls after Antarctic fall

[Dan Newling](#)

Adventurer Bear Grylls was in agony yesterday as he waited to be airlifted to hospital after breaking his shoulder on a 9,000ft mountain in Antarctica. The 34-year-old television presenter suffered a serious shoulder injury while climbing an ice mountain in the far north of the freezing continent. The accident happened whilst Grylls was preparing to spend the Friday night in a bivouac suspended on an ice shelf. Although he was in severe pain, his back up team took the decision to wait until Saturday morning before evacuating him to their Antarctic basecamp.

Yesterday evening - over 36 hours after the accident happened - he was still at the basecamp, awaiting a light aircraft to evacuate him to Cape Town in South Africa. It is thought his rescue may have been delayed by extremely high winds which have prevented aircraft from landing. Once he arrives in Cape Town - which is a seven hour flight away - Grylls is likely to be flown on to the UK for full medical treatment. Last night details of the accident remained sketchy. However, a close friend of the married father of two said he was 'shocked and in agony'.

A spokesman for the former SAS soldier said: "He has broken his shoulder and is in a lot of pain. He is calm and collected - but in pain. It is par for the course for the sort of thing that Bear does - this was a dangerous trip." Grylls was in Antarctica for a trip designed to improve the green credentials of bio-fuels. His four-man team is being sponsored by biofuel company Ethanol Ventures. Logistics for Grylls' trip were organised by White Desert, a UK-based luxury adventure travel company. Yesterday Robyn Garratt, a spokesman for the firm told the Daily Mail: 'Bear Grylls is still on the ice.'

She said: 'All communication from the ice has been about coordinating his evacuation. Right now we are doing all we can to get him out safely.

'We are waiting for a suitable weather window to land safely on the ice and take off again. The plan is to fly an Ilyushin in there and fly him out weather permitting.' Mrs Garratt said Grylls was in a stable condition and there was a doctor with him at their White Desert camp on Queen Maud Land, the Norwegian-owned territory of Antarctica. Born survivor: Bear Grylls copes on a desert Island in a Channel 4 TV programme

Though the basecamp is temporary and will be dismantled after the expedition, it consists of specially-insulated temporary buildings able to withstand the extreme weather conditions. The teams expedition entailed them completing various tasks, including climbing mountains, kite-skiing and jet-skiing. The team had spent time kite-skiing across the ice, paragliding and jetskiing. They had been planning to climb an as-yet unnamed 9,000 ft high mountain.

The day before Friday's accident, Grylls had posted a breathless blog entry detailing the expedition's progress. Complaining of strong winds, he told how he and his friends lowered hanging bivouacs into position on the ice shelf. He said he had been abseiling and was looking forward to trying to fly in electric gliders.

He wrote: 'We have been hampered by the strong winds today, which have stopped us getting into the high mountains. The winds race from the South Pole outwards and when they race you really know about it. 'If the winds abate we will grab our opportunity and move in to the high mountains tomorrow. If not we'll start this tricky procedure of getting the jetski and inflatable down to the water.'

Addressing to the continent's international scientific community, he added: 'The Russian scientists have got wind of everything that we are up to, which has apparently confirmed in their minds, that the Brits are mad: 'nobody takes a jetski to Antarctica or tries to rest on a vertical ice edge!'.

Bear Grylls - whose real first name is Edward - left the Territorial Army's SAS regiment after a parachute jump in which parachute failed to fully open. Amazingly he survived with three broken vertebrae.

Since then he made his name as an adventurer - he was the youngest person ever to have climbed Mount Everest. He then turned his hand to motivational speaking and television presenting. Earlier this year his programme *Born Survivor* was at the centre of television fakery complaints when a former crewmember revealed that his existence had been far more comfortable than it was suggested on-screen. Grylls has also been criticised by rival survival expert Ray Mears who branded him a 'Boy Scout' and a 'showman'.

The Guardian

8 December 2008

TV adventurer breaks shoulder in Antarctic fall

Steven Morris

The British adventurer and [television](#) presenter Bear Grylls was waiting to be rescued from [Antarctica](#) yesterday after breaking his shoulder in a fall.

Grylls and his team were travelling on wind-powered kite-skis, electric paragliders, and jetskis and boats partly driven by bioethanol. They were also intending to climb a remote peak that had previously not been scaled or even named. But the expedition was suspended after Grylls fell on Friday. A spokesman said: "He is in a lot of pain but he is serene and calm."

Details about the accident were scant but a few hours before, Grylls described on his expedition website their struggle to camp on a vertical ice cliff.

"It was pretty hairy in the high winds trying to lower these hanging bivouacs into position and they were being buffeted violently against the ice face," he wrote. Rescuers spent the weekend trying to reach Grylls but were struggling because of the remoteness of the spot. The plan is to airlift him to South Africa.

Grylls, who broke his back in a parachuting accident in 1997 as a member of the SAS, is best known for Man vs Wild on the Discovery Channel, in which he strands himself in a remote location and shows off his survival techniques. A Discovery Channel statement said: "Once he sees a doctor, we will have a better sense of the level of seriousness of his shoulder injury and the recovery time needed to get him back to his full physical activity."

The trip to Antarctica is sponsored by a company called Ethanol Ventures and is designed to test how well vehicles powered by bioethanol worked in extreme conditions. It is also raising money for a children's charity.