



WMS Elective 2014

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*Here's Chris - Wilderness
Medicine Doc-in-Training*

Chris Czaplicki blogs for the group

February 7, 2014

Today the teams had their first opportunities to do some outdoor scenarios, including locating, assessing, packaging and transporting the patient to safety. All quickly learned that the wet, steep slopes of the Smokys made working on patients extremely challenging, and loose footing, downed trees, thick brush and mud pits were common challenges in all the scenarios. The four scenarios the teams went through today included a 15 foot fall from a tree, a femur fracture from a log, an ATV crash, and a femur and fib/tib fracture from a slide down a mountain slope (running from a bear). I had the opportunity to play patient in the broken femur scenario, and couldn't help but have fun at my group's expense, being less than cooperative, and positioning my broken leg under a tree root. Luckily when it was my turn to lead on the fall from the tree case, my patient was a bit easier to move and was on a relatively open spot on the slope.

The day was broken up by some great lectures by Dr. Edelstein, including an overview on Nutrition in the backcountry, and another on her experiences leading a trip to Mt. Everest, reminding us all the reason we are here. Tomorrow we are all looking forward to getting off campus to UT Knoxville Medical Center followed by some indoor climbing in the afternoon, especially since some of us haven't left Wesley Woods since Sunday!

Christopher Czaplicki

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