

Kristin Hopkins found alive in wrecked car on Red Hill Pass

Emily Clingman, Editor | Posted: Friday, May 9, 2014 12:42 pm

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Kristin Hopkins was definitely on the borderline of survival.

"She was cold, very very cold," said Dr. Jennifer Bocker, the first trauma surgeon to provide care for Hopkins at St. Anthony's Hospital in Lakewood.

Hopkins was rescued from her wrecked car on May 4 and may have been stranded in it for nearly six days - upside down.

In a press conference this afternoon at St. Anthony's, Bocker, along with trauma surgeon Robert Madayag and Hopkins' parents, Glen and Connie Morgan, Bocker detailed the minutes just after Hopkins' arrival to the hospital.

Bocker said Hopkins' body temperature was 60 degrees and her heart rate was around 50. Madayag added that her survival was miraculous.

"For the amount of time, the cold temperature and being upside down - that was the most miraculous," he said.

Hopkins is still in critical condition but improving according to her doctors and family members. She experienced head, face, chest and abdomen injuries in addition to the extremity damage - both of her feet were amputated due to being crushed and trapped in the vehicle. She is also suffering brain trauma and has not been able to vocalize her side of the story, if she even remembers it, ever.

Madayag said that while she's more alert and interactive today than she has been so far, and her organs will likely make a full recovery, Hopkins seems to have no recollection at this point of what happened or what's going on currently.



PLEASE HELP

The umbrella that Kristin Hopkins write SOS messages on while trapped in her vehicle after going over a ridge off U.S. Highway 285 near Fairplay and crashing 80 feet below. "Can't get doors open," one scrawled note said. (photo courtesy of Park county Sheriff's Office)

He said this is not uncommon for patients who've suffered a car crash. Her brain may take weeks or months to recover.

"She may never remember the specifics," Madayag said.

Doctors are not sure how long Hopkins' recovery will be. It could be one week or three.

Hopkins children, 16, 15, 11 and seven have been in the custody of their father during this ordeal and he hasn't allowed them to visit her yet.

"She suffered a lot of facial trauma," her father said. "She's pretty beat up."

Morgan and his wife, Connie both talked of it potentially being traumatizing for the children as well.

Hopkins parents speak

"We have no idea why she was up there," Morgan said.

Hopkins was working two jobs, one as a Starbuck's barista and another as a waitress at The Perfect Landing Restaurant near Centennial Airport.

It was not uncommon for him to be up for work at 5:30 in the morning and for Hopkins, who has recently been living in her parent's basement, to be gone.

She was last seen on Sunday, April 27.

For a few days her parents speculated her whereabouts - maybe she reunited with her old boyfriend, maybe she was hurt. It wasn't until Tuesday, when Hopkins was scheduled to pick up her four children from their father and never responded to his texts inquiring when she'd be there, that her father started to really start worrying.

After a call to her phone that went straight to voice mail, Morgan reported Hopkins missing to the Douglas County Police.

"We're foggy as to why she was in Park County," he said.

"Part of me wants her to remember and part of me doesn't," added Connie. "I don't want to push her. I'm not going to question her."

Yesterday was Hopkins' birthday. Nobody's sure if she knew that but when her family sang "Happy Birthday" to her, she made hand gestures as if she was conducting music.

Who's the real hero?

The Morgans met the Lombards today. Hope and Andy Lombard discovered Hopkins overturned car at the bottom of an 80-foot embankment on Sunday.

"It was hugs and tears all around," Glenn said, adding that his family is just so thankful to the

