Climber dies at Chivo Falls

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80-foot plunge

Climber dies at Chivo Falls

A young California man slipped and fell to his death at Chivo Falls yesterday, the third victim in as many years at the treacherous scenic site in the Rincon Mountains.

Richard Chapman, 25, of Imperial Beach, was trying to negotiate the slippery rock in slick-soled cowboy boots when he lost his footing and tumbled 80 feet into the water at about 6 p.m., said sheriff's deputies.

Friends said he struck a rock near the bottom of the falls before reaching the pool.

Chapman's companions carried him to a nearby road and a passing motorist summoned help.

A Department of Public Safety helicopter brought paramedics to the scene, but attempts to revive the victim proved futile.

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