The other lesson brought out is that of strategy of protection for the second climber, which the leader must consider as important as his own under certain climbing situations, such as this instance of both following on a downclimb and traversing at the same time. There was no solid rappel anchor to rappel from so we decided to downclimb the short ten meter section. The reason we did not continue the climb was a notice at the Lumpy Ridge parking area that stated the entrance gate would be locked and the area closed at 1800. While trying to get back to our car so we wouldn't be locked in, I was surprised to see a couple of other climbers still on the rock who seemed unconcerned about the closing time. When we finally did make it to the parking lot and our car, at 1850, we found the gate unlocked and there appeared no intention of locking it, as numerous other cars were still in the parking lot, indicating that others who probably were more familiar with the area knew that the gate was not going to be locked. (Source: Doug Grimm)

FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT, INADEQUATE PROTECTION, LOOSE ROCK

Colorado, Pikes Peak

On August 30, 1986, Richard Andrews (42) was climbing a 15 meter pitch on Tenny Crags. He was belayed by his daughter (13). He was two to three meters above his last chock when he fell, pulling all protection and going all the way to the ground. He fractured his ankle and injured his spine. (Source: Skee Hipszky, El Paso County Search and Rescue)

Analysis

The rock here is extremely loose and weathered. It is doubtful that any protection would have held the fall. (Source: Skee Hipszky, El Paso County Search and Rescue)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY, PROTECTION PULLED OUT, NO HARD HAT, LOOSE ROCK

Colorado, Bear Creek Canyon

On October 26, 1986, two climbers with proper equipment, including seat harnesses, carabiners and pitons, were climbing in Bear Creek Canyon. The victim (18) was belaying the climber. Slack existed. Climber fell, stress caused victim to lose balance in standing belay. Victim fell, pulling piton out, dropping 18 meters, landing on head and back. (Source: David Niegocki, Fireman with Colorado Springs Fire Department)

(Editor's Note: We don't know what happened to the climber.)

OVERDUE CLIMBERS, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, INEXPERIENCE

Idaho, Mount Borah

On May 26, 1986, Glynda Miller (age unknown) and Geoff Lyons set out to climb Mount Borah. On May 27, Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue received a call from Don Miller to say that his ex-wife and her friend had gone either mountain climbing or caving and had not returned. Glynda Miller had left their daughter with a babysitter, but had not returned to pick up the child.