

looser and steeper than the lower ridge. Ortenburger suggests, "Two 120-foot leads, either directly up the bottom (loose rock) or up the left (east) side of the yellow couloir, take one to the notch." Being roped and belayed would have been the only way Ryan's fall could have been stopped.

The cause of this accident falls more in the category of objective danger than in the unsafe act category. Every experienced mountaineer who attempts the East Ridge of the Grand Teton accepts that there is a certain degree of risk associated with loose rock. Getting around the Molar Tooth is the worst section for this, whether one goes south or north. Touching an unstable rock that immediately crashes into the climber is an event that all mountaineers dread, and few mountaineers would be quick enough to avoid. If Ryan hadn't touched a particular loose rock, the ascent to the notch would likely have been uneventful, as it was for Kopczynski as he climbed the east side of the gully a few minutes later. (Source: Dan Burgette, Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

### **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE Wyoming, Tetons**

On July 31, 1987, Peter Froelicher (24) and Alicia Sams (23) attempted a one-day ascent of Teewinot via the East Face route. At 1345, both were climbing unroped at an elevation of 3500 meters. Froelicher got into a position where he was standing on a small ledge and trying to find a handhold. Sams was very close to him. After a few minutes of hanging on and trying to make the next move upward, Froelicher attempted to move upward, but lost his hold and fell.

Froelicher fell about three meters vertically and then tumbled about ten meters down broken rock terrain. Sams fell off her perch moments later, duplicating Froelicher's fall and coming to rest just above him.

Both sustained serious injuries, later diagnosed at St. John's Hospital: Sams had two fractured wrists requiring surgery and multiple lacerations and abrasions. Froelicher suffered a fracture of the right pelvis (pubic ramus), a pneumomediastinum, multiple lacerations, and abrasions.

Sams was unable to move with her injuries. She was forced to spend the night in the area in which she had fallen. She had no extra clothes with her, but fortunately the night was warm and dry. Froelicher descended and was found by rangers on their way to look for them. A helicopter rescue ensued. (Source: Peter Armington, Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

#### **Analysis**

In an interview on August 2, Froelicher said that they had not taken any ropes on the climb. He said that general information around the valley was that the East Face of Teewinot was a walk-up route, not requiring technical equipment or experience. Froelicher said that neither he nor Sams had much climbing experience. (Source: Peter Armington, Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

### **LIGHTNING Wyoming, Tetons**

On July 15, 1987, Brad Anderson (26) was 90 to 100 meters in front of his hiking partners on Table Mountain when he was struck by lightning. After the strike, his partners could not see him right away. Several minutes later, they found him