

der. To the right of the rock on which I was standing and three feet up was a granite flake. I followed a friend, who used the flake as a foothold. Because I am much heavier than she, I first tried to test the flake by kicking it. It seemed stable, but when my full weight had shifted up and right, it broke. The crystals I gripped with my fingers were inadequate to keep me from falling. I missed the rock from which I had stepped up and landed in a crevasse (*sic*) 15 feet below. My pelvis and both arms were broken. The ulna of my right arm was protruding through the skin

I don't remember landing or being extracted from the crevasse (*sic*). At first I was confused. Two rescue teams eventually arrived to help but they could not carry me over the rugged terrain, especially at night. Eventually an Air Force helicopter flew from the other end of the state, reaching us at 0130, ten hours after my fall. The helicopter had to hover within a few yards of the dome and winch me up. I was spinning wildly at the end of the cable. We flew to Tucson but landed at the wrong hospital. I completed the journey in an ambulance.

### **Analysis**

I will never trust a flake. If I had been roped up and following I would not have been hurt. Lacking the rope, I would seek another route.

Always carry drugs! The medics who came to the rescue did not have any. If my friends had not brought codeine with them, I would have had to do with out pain killers until I reached the hospital. (Source: Barbara Calef)

## **FALL ON ROCK, PLACED INADEQUATE PROTECTION**

### **California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On January 31, 1992, at 1450, Laurie Lauer (32) fell near the top of White Lightning (5.7). Due to the stretch in the rope and the distance from her last piece of protection, the distance of the fall was 15 to 20 feet. She landed on a slab, resulting in a fractured lower right leg. She was evacuated by park rangers. (Source: David Trevino, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

## **FALL ON ROCK, PLACED INADEQUATE PROTECTION**

### **California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On February 1, 1992, Michael Gardiner (31) fell while leading the Hobbit Roof (5.10). Gardiner's top piece of protection, a #2 Friend, pulled out, so he fell 30 feet to the ground. He landed on his feet, then fell to his side, hitting his head against the rock. He sustained a broken nose and sore jaw.

### **Analysis**

Where Gardiner fell is 5.9. He was relying on only one piece of protection. He was very lucky not to have sustained greater injury, as the landing area is not good. (Source: Debbie Brenchley, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

## **FALL ON ROCK, OFF ROUTE, UNPLANNED BIVOUAC, MISUNDERSTANDING OF RATING SYSTEM, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT**

### **Arizona, Canyon Spring Wall, De Grazia**

The purpose of the trip (on December 2, 1992) was to complete a multi-pitch climb. De Grazia was selected because it provided good "exposure" with moderate difficulty. The

description in the guide book led us to believe that the third pitch was the most difficult and the only pitch rated 5.7 followed by two pitches of lesser difficulty.

We left home an hour off schedule and the approach took an hour more than planned. We ate a quick lunch and began climbing around 1130. After finishing the third pitch, we estimated the sun would set in a few hours. We decided to continue up expecting the last two pitches would not take as long as the third pitch. The lead climber (27) went off route, but was able to traverse left gaining the belay station. By the time the second climber (31) reached that belay point, the sun had set. The lead climber continued up, unintentionally going off route to gain a ledge. When the second climber reached the ledge, it was decided it was too dark to continue.

The ledge led up to a large flake which created a crevasse providing shelter. We secured our position in the crevasse and took measures to protect us against hypothermia.

The following morning when it was light enough to see, we prepared to climb again. At this time a truck, presumably from the Arizona Mountaineering Club, arrived and sounded a siren. We made no contact with him and started to climb at 0730. The leader climbed up approximately 15 feet, clipping into existing webbing and then moving right out of the crevasse and onto a small ledge. He continued up the face and began moving left into the crack when he fell. He fell approximately ten feet to a ledge, landing on his feet. He continued down clearing the crevasse and landed on his back on the ledge just below the belayer—a total fall of about 30 feet.

After assessing injuries, we called down to the truck for help, communicating the need for help. He told us help is on its way. In a few hours several vehicles and a rescue helicopter arrived.

We had some difficulty signaling the helicopter, but after several passes we were located. Around 1430 the paramedic had descended from the top to our position.

Tom attended to my injuries, immobilizing my right ankle. By this time we were fairly dehydrated and the paramedic gave us some water and a little food. Tom coordinated how my partner and I would ascend with the rest of the rescue team above. An hour or so had passed and then the haul system was ready. I was fitted with a helmet and chest harness and was slowly hauled to the top of the rock. Once I reached the location of the haul system, I was escorted to where the helicopter could land and pick me up (approximately 50 yards). The helicopter landed once I was in position and flew me down to the parking area. At this same time my partner was being hauled to the top. I was escorted to the ambulance and was checked over for injuries. When Phil had come to the parking area, I refused the ambulance ride to the hospital, since my injuries were not life threatening.

After returning home I had my wife take me to a clinic for x-rays and treatment. Two small fractures to the lower tibia, just above the right ankle.

### **Analysis**

I have learned that a 5.7 in Arizona is equal to a 5.9 in Yosemite. Previously I thought the Yosemite Decimal System would transfer to other places equally. I was told the day of the rescue by several people that Arizona doesn't rate their climbs the same as Yosemite, which I'm used to. On future multi-pitch climbs, I will bring two ropes giving me the option to rappel if I lack sufficient daylight to finish the climb. (Source: Will Wakeling) FALLING ROCK Arizona, Flagstaff, Priest Draw ON February 21, 1992, Robert Drysdale (22) was killed when a large block was dislodged from the top of a boulder problem and hit him in the back of the head. Drysdale, originally from Scotland, was a very experi-

enced climber, having started at age 15. He established many difficult climbs, often without much protection. (Source: Magazine and newspaper clips)

*(Editor's Note: Angelo Kokenakis, from Flagstaff, also reported a fatality from lightning on Mount Humphreys. While this was a hiking accident, it is important for climbers new to the area to know that lightning is common here in the afternoon.)*

## **STRANDED, EXCEEDING ABILITIES, INADEQUATE PROTECTION California, Yosemite Valley, Swan Slab**

On April 27, 1992, at 1430, Karen Hoepfner telephoned NPS dispatch and reported that James Dziadulewicz had fallen while rock climbing on Swan Slab, and was injured on a ledge approximately 30 feet above the ground. I responded with Ranger Obernesser, picked up Hoepfner and located Dziadulewicz at 1440.

Dziadulewicz was on a ledge approximately 30 vertical feet above the ground. He was in a stable position, and said that he had injured his leg and scraped his hands. I assumed incident command while Ranger Obernesser climbed to Dziadulewicz and led the medical team. Ranger Ray arrived with a technical rescue team and supervised the technical rescue, in which Dziadulewicz was immobilized in a litter and lowered to the ground. Rescuers climbing to Dziadulewicz were required to be on belay or ascend a fixed rope due to the steep, exposed rock face, and rescuers were exposed to falling rock several times during the rescue. Dziadulewicz was transported to the Yosemite Medical Clinic, where he was diagnosed as having a fractured left tibia and severe abrasions to both hands and forearms.

### **Analysis**

At 1435 I interviewed Hoepfner at the accident scene. Hoepfner said that Dziadulewicz had been demonstrating basic rock climbing to her. She said that he had rappelled approximately 40 vertical feet down a rock face and was trying to climb back up when he fell. Hoepfner said she was not sure why he fell.

At 1630 I interviewed Dziadulewicz at the Yosemite Medical Clinic. He learned to climb from a friend and has never had any formal training. He said that approximately ten years ago, he rappelled a lot, and that he now climbs approximately ten times a year. He said the hardest routes he has ever climbed were following 5.8, and said he had only done that three or four times. Dziadulewicz said he has climbed in Yosemite a few times, but has never climbed on Swan Slab before. He had not done any significant routes in Yosemite, but had just "messed around" at the base of climbs that friends were doing. He didn't have jumars with him and did not know what a prusik is.

Dziadulewicz described himself as a person who isn't afraid of trying anything, and said he tends to "just go ahead and do it" without a lot of thought. He said he sometimes gets a little crazy and "goes to extremes," and said he thought he'd gone too far today. He also said, "I'm not all that crazy about heights." He said that he was hurrying to show her as much as possible about climbing in the short time they had left in Yosemite before leaving later in the day for southern California. He also said that he was trying to show off a little bit to impress Hoepfner with how easy climbing is and how much he knows about it.

He said he had just rappelled down a rock face approximately 40 feet (immediately above the ledge where he was found) and wanted to climb back up to show Hoepfner how to rappel. He said he saw an easy and apparently safe route up a chimney a short