

the Sublette County Sheriff's Office was notified, they requested the park rangers assist in the rescue.

Two park rangers and a Physician's Assistant were flown to Moore's location in Indian Basin. Helicopter short-haul technique was then used to insert rescuers to the accident site. Boynton's injuries were assessed and treated, and she was short-hauled to the basin below. Boynton was then transferred to an air ambulance from the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and flown to St. John's Hospital in Jackson. She had multiple injuries, including a pulmonary contusion and torn ankle ligaments.

Analysis

This is another case of a large block pulling loose. A very experienced climber was caught by this objective danger. Testing holds and not having the belayer standing directly below the climber are important. This was a good example of climbers with a different mind-set than we often see in the Tetons. This party was nineteen miles from the trailhead. Boynton assumed that she would be spending the night on her ledge, and the party was prepared for that, mentally and gear-wise. Amazingly, the cell phone Moore borrowed got out of the basin beneath the peak and Boynton was evacuated that evening. Cell phones can be a real help when they are genuinely needed and if they work, but they are not more important than self-help and being prepared. (Source: Dan Burgette, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

HANDHOLD CAME OFF—STRUCK BY ROCK

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Disappointment Peak

On August 17, John Taylor (29) was climbing the Lake Ledges route on Disappointment Peak when he dislodged a rock. The rock struck him on the left chest, and then hit his feet and ankles. He tumbled about ten feet after the rock passed. His sister ran down for help. Ranger Andy Byerly saw her run past him, but thought she was just a jogger. Another visitor informed Byerly of the incident. He radioed the information he had at 1630 to SAR coordinator Burgette. Rangers Jackson and Motter had just finished the Open Book climb on the south side of Disappointment, and they were only about 200 yards from Taylor when they heard Byerly's report. Climbing with them was Dr. Oram, an emergency physician. They reached Taylor, did an assessment, and requested that a helicopter be dispatched. After discussion, it was decided to fly to the scene, do a power check, and if everything looked good, land on the plateau above the incident site, let out ranger Johnson with med gear, and return for the short-haul litter.

The park's contract helicopter, piloted by Jim Hood, arrived at the SAR cache at 1712. After a briefing, they flew to the site and found good conditions. The patient was packaged and short-hauled to the heli-spot, and then flown inside the ship to Lupine Meadows where Medic I was waiting to transport Taylor to St. John's Hospital. The rescue team was flown from the heli-spot and reached Lupine Meadows at 1910.

Taylor was found to have lacerations, contusions, and fractures in his left foot.

Analysis

This was one example of a climber being caught unaware as a loose rock pulled free of the mountain. Testing holds when scrambling unroped is just as important as when on lead. (Source: Dan Burgette, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

BELAY ANCHOR FAILURE—KNOT CAME UNDONE, FALL ON ROCK

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Mount Owen

On the evening of September 3, a cell phone call reported an Exum client with a sprained ankle on the West Ledges of Mount Owen. Tanya Bradby of Seattle, WA, was on a guided climb of the Grand Traverse. After spending the night of September 2 on the east ridge of Mount Owen, they went to the summit and started descending the West Ledges. About three hundred feet below the crest of the south ridge, they came to a steep step of ten or more feet. The guide decided to lower the client down this step. Earlier, the guide had threaded an anchor with a sling. After using the thread, she didn't retie the knot on the sling. For the lowering, she took the sling she had threaded before, tied a knot to join its ends, and slung a boulder. She clipped a locking carabiner into the sling and used a Munter hitch. As Bradby weighted the rope, the sling failed because the knot came undone. Bradby got her foot stuck in a crack during her fall, and her ankle was sprained as a result. Bradby hit a ledge below the step, and the guide was able to hang onto the 8-mm rope with her burned hands, which kept Bradby from tumbling down the seventy-degree face.

Analysis

This is a sobering incident. An experienced guide tied a knot that failed when it was weighted. This reaffirms the basic rule that one has to check and recheck all knots and anchors before a life is trusted to them. This incident should get the attention of all, including experienced climbers. (Source: Dan Burgette, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

(Editor's Note: As Peter Lev, one of Exum Guides owners pointed out, "...these things have happened to just about every climber at one time or another, but what really matters is that the guide SAVED THE DAY by hand holding a small-diameter rope. No small feat. It is the 'save' that separates out the climbers/guides with 'the right stuff.'")

ROCK PULLED OFF—BROKE CLIMBING ROPE, FALL ON ROCK

Wyoming, Wind River Range, Cirque of the Towers, Wolf's Head Peak

On September 22, Michael "Scott" Shaw (31) of Talkeetna, Alaska, died in a mountaineering accident while descending Wolf's Head Peak in the Cirque of the Towers.

Scott and Alex Everett (both National Outdoor Leadership School instructors) summited Wolf's Head Peak via the East Ridge around 4:10 p.m. They rappelled the west face by double rope rappel then climbed 4th class to the notch above a prominent east facing chimney/gully descending to Cirque Lake. They made four single rope rappels to the floor of the gully. On the fourth and last rappel, the rappel rope became stuck when they tried to retrieve it. They decided that Scott would climb back up to dislodge it. Scott climbed, belayed by