

December on essentially a full time basis. While the formation grew, he had closely been studying the conditions of the pillar. The pillar had seen two previous ascents. One ascent that MM was aware of was made by a local friend of the area. The climber had previously talked to MM about his ascent. Conditions seemed good for MM that day. He was mentally and physically prepared for the climb. The technical climbing wouldn't be the issue. Knowledge, experience and acceptable risk all played a major role in this incident. (Source: Marc Boilard, member of party and rescuer)

FALL ON ICE, BELAY DEVICE SET-UP INCORRECTLY

Colorado, Ouray Ice Park

According to reports, on February 6, a client topped out and placed his partner, a guide, on belay. In the process, the client rigged his Reverso incorrectly. Sometime during the climb the climber was being lowered and because the rope was threaded incorrectly through the belay device, the guide was dropped 40 feet, resulting in a broken pelvis along with a few other bones.

Analysis

A good practice to follow before going on belay is to do a pull test on all autoblock devices when they are in autoblock mode, even if you're sure the device is threaded the right way. (Source: www.mountainproject.com)

STRANDED, OFF ROUTE

Colorado, Eldorado Canyon State Park

On March 4, a male climber (23) and his friend began to rappel the Redguard route sometime around 7:00 p.m. They quickly realized they had descended in the wrong spot and had become stuck. They called two friends who attempted to help them, but after several hours they decided to call 911. Rocky Mountain Rescue performed a technical rescue of the two stuck climbers, and evacuated them without incident and injury.

Analysis

A better knowledge of the descent route may have prevented this incident from occurring. (Source: Boulder County Sheriff's Department)

FALL ON ROCK, NO HARD HAT

Colorado, Boulder Falls

During the afternoon on March 6, a person reported a fallen climber in the area behind Boulder Falls by flagging down a United States Forest Service employee, who in turn reported the incident by radio.

The climber, Austin Forbes (21), was located at the base of the Plotinus Wall, a popular sport climbing area. He had fallen approximately 20 feet while lead climbing, suffering a skull fracture, lung contusion, and left shoulder dislocation. Forbes had been climbing with William Hausen (19) and another