

individual. Forbes was not wearing a helmet. Forbes was treated by paramedics and then evacuated to the road by the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group. *[NB: The climbing party accessed the Plotinus Wall through the Boulder Falls area, which is currently closed by the City of Boulder due to rock-fall hazard. City of Boulder Rangers cited Hausen for trespassing in the closed area.]* (Source: <http://cuindependent.com>)

AVALANCHE, CLIMBING ALONE

Colorado, Cimmaron Mountains, Baldy Peak

On March 30, Heidi Kloos (41), traveling with her dog, went to climb a remote ice climb on the northeast side of Baldy Peak (10,603 feet). Ouray County Search and Rescue was contacted on March 31 when a friend found that Heidi had not returned home.

A small team went to assess the scene and discovered the avalanche. Ouray County Search and Rescue found tracks leading into a large avalanche debris pile. Heidi had left her pack and climbing gear, including an avalanche beacon, just outside of the avalanche debris. The assumption was that Heidi dropped her gear and headed up to assess the climb and was caught low in the path. Her dog was also found at the scene.

Darkness hampered further rescue efforts until the next day. A larger rescue team and two avalanche rescue dogs and their handlers arrived at the staging area early on the morning of April 1. A team of two went into the area, followed shortly thereafter by the dog teams. After several hours of searching the complex terrain, a dog team located a ski. The ski was found at the toe of the debris, in line with the clues that were found the day before (pack, climbing skin). Rescuers decided to do a probe search up the likely line of trajectory. After about 45 minutes, rescuers felt they had a strike and dug down to confirm. One of the avalanche dogs also gave an alert in this area. Rescuers continued to dig and found Heidi buried under five to six feet snow and debris.

Heidi had 15 years of experience guiding big mountains around the world. She was a very experienced backcountry traveler and a certified alpine mountain guide (AMGA). She had completed professional level avalanche safety training (AIARE Level III).

Analysis

It is ill advised to travel alone in avalanche country. (Source: Colorado Avalanche Information Center)

FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT

Colorado, Boulder Canyon, Happy Hour Crag

On May 8, I took a 15-foot ground fall at Happy Hour, resulting in three broken ribs and a partially collapsed lung. Very lucky! I was leading "I, Ro-

bot" (5.7), a right-facing dihedral. There's not a lot of gear off the ground. I had a 0.5 cam in the crack about ten feet up and I had backed it up with a small stopper above it. I was trying to get above the gear and took a short fall. The gear held. I didn't re-set the gear or even look at it after that fall, because I figured the stopper would be well sunk into the rock at that point. Mistake? I just don't know.

I tried again, and managed to get my feet several feet above the gear and was on a small ledge. The crack wasn't great, so neither the holds nor the places for gear were very great. I found a spot on the left side where I could have jammed a cam in there, but I didn't have enough time.

I peeled off. I was off balance, so I swung out to the right and then down. I remember seeing my gear. At that point, I had no idea it wouldn't hold. I didn't even know I was going to deck until I was already down.

Analysis

I've tried to analyze my gear placement with friends and I have two thoughts about it. I should have at least checked the placement after my first fall. But it's possible that the reason it popped was the angle of the fall. (Source: Kitty Turner from a post on mountainproject.com)

PRE-EXISTING CONDITION

Colorado, Boulder Canyon

On May 29, Bill Trull (age unknown) was climbing in a recently developed climbing area across from the Bihedral Rock. The climb was located on the south side of Boulder Creek. Trull did not fall but became injured during the climb due to a previous, unrelated injury. He was climbing on a top rope and was lowered to the base of the climb.

When the Boulder Fire ladder truck arrived it was determined the ladder would reach across the river at a narrow point. The ladder was extended across the river and Trull was loaded into the ladder bucket and brought back across the river.

Analysis

Climbers with pre-existing medical conditions should be checked by a personal physician before climbing. Pre-existing conditions can compromise the outcome of a rock climb for both the climber and climbing party by creating unanticipated problems. (Source: www.bouldercounty.org)

FALL ON ROCK, POOR POSITION

Colorado, Eldorado Canyon, Redgarden Wall

On June 15, Emily Cosnett (29) was climbing with Eric Dunlap on the The Yellow Spur (5.9). Emily was positioned on the ground and had Eric on-belay. Eric slipped about eight feet up the climb and fell, landing on Emily. Emily suffered a laceration to her left eye, and complained of back