

**SLIP ON SNOW—INVOLUNTARY GLISSADE,  
INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, NO HARD HAT, INEXPERIENCE  
Colorado, Hagues Peak**

On March 16, 1982, six members of Explorer Post #104 went into the Lawn Lake area (about 5½ miles from the trail head) to camp and hike in the Mummy Range. About 1000, Stephen Anderson (18) and Stephan Knust (17) began to ascend Hagues Peak, reaching the summit around 1230. About 1500, while descending, both Anderson and Knust lost their footing on the hard snow crust and slid, uncontrolled, down the snow field. Knust slid about 30 meters and Anderson about 100 meters; both were stopped by soft snow and protruding rocks. Anderson suffered a 5 cm laceration on the top of his head, was generally bruised and lost his eyeglasses (vision-correction dependent). Knust suffered only general bruising. Assisting each other, both returned to their snow cave near Lawn Lake. One Explorer Scout remained in the snow cave with Anderson, while Knust and the three others returned to the trail head to report the incident about 1900.

The report indicated that Anderson was stable enough to spend the night without further assistance. A helicopter (St. Anthony's Flight for Life) operation was scheduled; the operation went as planned and Anderson was in the hospital by 0637 on March 18. (Source: Charlie Logan, Rocky Mountain National Park)

**FALL ON ROCK, FALLING ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION  
Colorado, Hallett Peak**

On June 9, 1982, Matthew Slater (19) and Jeffrey Cristol (18) were climbing Hallett Chimney (about 225 meters of mixed ice and rock) on Hallett Peak. They were about one lead from the top of the climb; Slater, who was leading, had run out about 40 meters of rope without any protection. About six meters from the top, the rock Slater was climbing on broke away and he fell approximately 65 meters. Cristol was able to take in about five arm-lengths of rope before bracing for the arrest which he successfully performed. Cristol lowered Slater to a small ledge and they remained in their respective locations the rest of the night waiting for help. Slater suffered a fractured femur, tibia and foot as well as multiple abrasions and bruises.

Neither climber was wearing a climbing helmet. Cristol caught the fall on a Sticht plate anchored to two nuts behind a flake. (Source: Charlie Logan, Rocky Mountain National Park)

**Analysis**

It is not known whether Slater tested the hold that broke away. As he suffered only minor injuries to his head, the fact that he was not wearing a helmet is an academic issue in this case. Both were carrying minimal equipment for a one-day big-wall climb. Their rescue was initiated the same evening because their parents reported them overdue. By 1430 on June 10, when the operation concluded with a helicopter flight to the hospital, 37 people had put in a total of 329 hours. (Source: Charlie Logan, Rocky Mountain National Park)