

FALLING ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION, RAPPEL FAILURE, BAD WEATHER

Colorado, Hallet Peak

On August 29, 1982, David Dangle (23) and David Miller (24) were climbing the Northcutt-Carter route on Hallett Peak. While they were doing the second pitch, a severe rainstorm hit and they were forced to retreat. They found a large rock horn with several slings wrapped on it and, after testing the soundness of the anchor, decided to use it for a rappel anchor. Miller, who rappelled first, went about 20 meters to a ledge and waited. Dangle then started his rappel; when he had gone down about six meters, he looked up and saw the entire rock horn falling out. Dangle fell about six meters, hit a ledge, bounced off it and fell onto another ledge. Meanwhile, the rock horn tipped 180 degrees, fell and landed top first in the dirt on another ledge, where it imbedded itself. The slings and rappel rope that were still attached to the rock eventually kept Dangle from falling more than 50 meters to the base of the wall. Dangle and Miller continued their descent without assistance. Dangle sustained a deep laceration to his knee in the fall. (Source: Charlie Logan, Rocky Mountain National Park)

Analysis

Perhaps the presence of several old slings resulted in the climbers making a less critical judgment of the anchor than they otherwise might have. Many of the "standard" descent routes all over the continent have old slings, bolts and pitons in place. Treating each as if it had never been used before is recommended. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE

Colorado, Crestone Needle

On August 31, 1982, the body of Matthew O'Connor (24) was recovered from Crestone Needle, from which he had fallen a few weeks earlier. On August 12, with only an extra sweater, he had set out to ascend four 4600-meter peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Range. No further details are known. (Source: News clipping sent by Freddie Carter from Pueblo, Colorado)

FALL ON SNOW, CLIMBING UNROPED, NO HARD HAT, INADEQUATE FOOTWEAR

Colorado, Crestone Needle

On September 11, 1982, Duane Best (22), a Western State College student, fell more than 80 meters to his death while ascending Crestone Needle with a companion, Geoffrey Bogar. Although they had climbing equipment with them, they were not using it. Best was climbing in tennis shoes. (Source: News clipping sent by Freddie Carter from Pueblo, Colorado)

Analysis

Two other fatalities on Crestone Needle occurred in October 1982. Over the past five years, there have been at least six fatalities and several accidents and incidents on this peak. The *Guide to the Colorado Mountains* by Robert M. Ormes describes the