

Analysis

This is the same as the climbing accident on Wrist. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, FAILURE OF PROTECTION

New York, Shawangunks

A woman (32) received head lacerations when she fell 15 meters off of Belly Roll. Her protection pulled as she fell. (Source: Brad Snyder)

Analysis

We don't know whether pitons or nuts were used for protection or whether the climber wore a helmet. It is worth observing that eleven out of sixteen accidents in the Shawangunks this year involved either placing no protection or protection pulling out. One can speculate that this has to do with the nature of the climbing area itself. There are lots of climbers around, the base of many of the climbs looks safer than most (a nice, flat dirt carriage road), and the exposure can seem minimal. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE, CLIMBING UNROPED

New York, Shawangunks

While soloing Andrew (5.4), a man (30) fell 18–20 meters to the ground. He suffered a broken jaw and a fractured pelvis. (Source: Brad Snyder)

Analysis

When one falls this far from an easy route while soloing, the resulting damage is likely to be just as great as a fall from a difficult route. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, FAILURE TO PLACE PROTECTION

New York, Shawangunks

On August 15, 1982, a male climber (25) fell while leading the second pitch of Dennis (5.5). The climber had been in the sport for about five months, leading up to 5.6 and seconding to 5.9. After leaving the belay ledge, he climbed into a fixed pin just below the crux and continued through what he considered to be the hardest section of the climb. He arrived at a resting position and, rather than placing a piece, he decided that he could push on to easier terrain. He proceeded for several more feet and realized that his legs were cramping up. He did not realize that he was falling until he passed the piton, some three meters below. The total fall, after striking a ledge, was approximately six to eight meters. The ledge was about two meters from where he came to rest. There were two active climbing parties nearby; I was in the second and below the fall. The first group, above the fall, were able to traverse a ledge and aid the belayer. The climber was lowered approximately 30 meters to the ground; he was still conscious and facing away from the wall in a rappelling stance. His injuries included multiple fractures of the arm and wrist,