

FALLS ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION

New York, Shawangunks

Of the 22 accidents reported from the Shawangunks this year, 21 were leader falls, half of which were more than three meters in distance. Eighteen falls resulted in fractures, and most involved protection either coming out or not being placed. An interesting observation is that over half the accidents occurred to climbers over 25, whereas close to 66 percent of the climbers involved in accidents are under 25. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve, and J. Williamson)

RAPPEL OFF ROPE

New York, Shawangunks

On August 2, 1984, a woman (20) rappelled off the end of her rope on Jackie (5.5) and fell five meters to the ground, fracturing vertebrae. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohawk Preserve)

Analysis

This kind of accident is almost non-existent these days. When it does happen, it is usually in a practice cliff and learning situation. (Source: J. Williamson)

BAT BITE

North Carolina, Green Cove

On September 13, 1984, Edwina Wicker (20) was doing a top roped climb with her Outward Bound group when she was bitten on her middle finger by a bat. The bat, who was in a crack that several other climbers used, was captured by the staff so the Health Department could determine whether or not the bat had rabies. (Source: Carrie Hozena, North Carolina Outward Bound School)

Analysis

Bats are occasionally on several of the climbing areas in North Carolina (and elsewhere). This is the first report of anyone being bitten, and the response to the accident should be remembered. The victim was spared the potential of serious illness. Even if the suspected critter cannot be found, a shot series should be considered. In this case, the bat, though found not to have rabies, was captured an hour after the incident (using gloves, snake stick, and a bag), so in case it might have been a different bat, the victim took a series of shots. They had no side effects, and she was able to complete her program. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK

Oregon, Mount Jefferson

On August 3, 1984, Keith Repetto (28) and William Evans (age unknown) fell over 150 meters to their deaths while descending the north ridge of Mount Jefferson. They were last heard from at 1700 on that date when Repetto radioed his wife to say the men were beginning their descent. They were both employees of the U. S. Forest