

IMPROPER RAPPEL ANCHOR PLACEMENT, INEXPERIENCE**California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On January 12, 1986, about 1330, the victim (18) and two friends set up a rappel site in Jumbo Rocks Corridor. The site was a 15 meter cliff on the southwest wall at the entrance to the corridor.

The rope they were using was a 22 meter long, 1.5 centimeters in diameter, soft laid marine rope, the type used in boat riggings. One end was wrapped once around a one meter in diameter boulder on the top of the cliff. One man rappelled off the cliff first without any problems. The victim was the next to rappel. He was approximately six meters from the top when the rope slipped over the boulder anchor. He free fell for about ten meters, landing on his legs and buttocks. He was placed on a backboard with a C-spine immobilization and carried out to an ambulance. (Source: Kip Knapp, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

Analysis

This was the first time the victim had rappelled. He did not check the anchor prior to rappelling. He stated that he had been smoking marijuana before the accident. (Source: Kip Knapp, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

(Editor's Note: Of the 16 accident reports sent to us from Joshua Tree this year, half involved non-climbers, some of which have been included in the narratives. This area is experiencing neophyte activity reminiscent of the days when climbing was getting started.)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE AND UNROPED**California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On January 19, 1986, at 1310 Jim Angione fell approximately six meters while free solo climbing "Cranny" (F-5.7) at Quail Springs Picnic Area. Angione sustained a fractured left lower leg.

Upon arriving on the scene at 1345, I observed Angione lying supine on a ledge about five meters above the ground. Subject was alert and oriented and complained of pain to his left ankle. The leg was angulated slightly medial and fracture was closed. The leg was splinted, C-spine precautions taken, oxygen administered, and subject was immobilized in a stokes litter. With the assistance of JOSAR members, subject was evacuated from the ledge to an awaiting Joshua Tree Ambulance and transported to High Desert Medical Center at 1420.

Angione stated that he had been free solo climbing for a month but had not climbed this route before the accident. (Source: Tom Patterson, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

SHOULDER DISLOCATION, ATTEMPTING TO IMITATE A CLIMBER**California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On April 19, 1986, I was advised that James Witt (28) had injured his shoulder while rock climbing in the park. Naturalist Tammy Smith administered first aid for an apparent dislocated left shoulder. Witt was transported to the High Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree by a privately owned vehicle. At 1130 R/R arrived at the Medical Center to