

belay was not directly in the fall line, but was roughly ten meters to the right of the location Colley was when he was hit. However, there are several ledges and corners which were between Kristy and Colley which could have caused the rock to bounce out of the fall line. According to the autopsy, Colley must have died instantly. (Source: Daniel Hower, SAR Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

## **FALL ON SNOW, FAILED TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT**

### **California, Mount Gilbert**

On June 22, 1986, a group of climbers was descending the snowy west side of the crest ridge in order to ascend a snow chute to the summit of Mount Gilbert. The leader observed a climber traversing toward some rocks. He was told emphatically not to enter the rocks and to follow the group down the snow. Climber restated his desire and leader again refused the request.

Climber disobeyed instructions, entered a steep tongue of hard snow in the rocky area and slipped. His arrest attempt failed and he impacted the rocks resulting in arm and hand lacerations and a sprained ankle. He was wearing soft topped work boots. (Source: Bob Hicks, Chairman, Safety Committee of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club)

### **Analysis**

Climber had little experience and had no basis to override the leader judgment. Improper foot gear may have contributed to the fall and the ankle sprain. Climber should not have been permitted to climb without proper foot gear. (Source: Bob Hicks, Chairman, Safety Committee of the Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club)

## **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION, NO HARD HAT**

### **California, Yosemite Valley**

On the morning of June 28, 1986, Erik Goukas (23) and Douglas McDonald hiked to the base of Higher Cathedral Rock to attempt the first continuous free ascent of the Pratt/Kelsey Route. They began climbing at 0820.

Between 0915 and 0930, Goukas was leading the third pitch. He was about 30 meters above, and out of sight of belayer McDonald, when he experienced a leader fall of approximately 20 meters. McDonald stated that as he belayed Goukas during the fall, he looked up and observed Goukas come to a stop in an upright position, perhaps ten meters above him. Goukas had not spoken during the fall, and did not respond to McDonald after the fall. McDonald tied off the rope, and ascended it to Goukas. He was nonresponsive. McDonald lowered him to the belay ledge and then rappelled and hiked to the valley floor where he contacted Ranger Grady Bryant on Southside Drive at 1012.

By 1030 a hasty team led by Ranger/Park Medic Mike Murray was enroute to Goukas, the Park's helicopter was being dispatched, and a Huey helicopter with winch capabilities from Lemoore Naval Air Station had been requested.

Ranger Murray's team arrived at Goukas about 1115. Murray reported Goukas as breathing but unconscious, suffering apparent head injuries. With Yosemite Medical Clinic's approval, Goukas was administered oxygen, spinal precautions were taken, MAST trousers were placed but not inflated, and an IV of Ringer's Lactate was initiated. During this period, a second ground team arrived on-scene with additional equipment, the Park's helicopter was preparing for a "short haul" (suspension of the