

applied, and a belayed scree style evacuation took place, with the victim in a stokes style litter.

When the oxygen ran out from the bottle on the litter, the victim's drive to breathe reduced alarmingly. A full tank arrived soon after it was requested, and the victim resumed her previous breathing rate.

Injuries sustained included two fractured shoulder blades, a compression fracture of the fourth thoracic vertebra, a right pneumothorax, a ruptured spleen, and a badly fractured pelvis. (Source: Tom Mullen, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group)

Analysis

It is common practice to belay rappellers, especially novices. It is also common practice to have a back-up to a single point rappel anchor when possible. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING UNROPED

Colorado, Fern Canyon

On March 24, 1986, two climbers were down-climbing a mid fifth class section of Seal Rock in the Fern Canyon area of Boulder when one slipped and fell. Neither was roped at the time. The victim was stabilized by members of the Colorado Mountain Club who happened to be nearby, and subsequently evacuated by members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group.

The victim was paralyzed from the waist down, and died a few weeks later of a pulmonary embolism. (Source: Tom Mullen, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group)

FALL ON ROCK WHILE DESCENDING

Colorado, Flatirons

On May 10, 1986, a female climber (23) had completed a fifth class route called Friday's Folly on the third Flatiron in Boulder, when she slipped and fell during her descent down the third class gully between the second and third Flatirons. She apparently fell about 12 meters down some rock ledges. She was unconscious and bleeding from the scalp when two friends began carrying her to the base of the gully. Members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group met them at the base of the gully, and despite resuscitative efforts by group members, the victim died. Cause of death was apparently internal bleeding. (Source: Tom Mullen, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group)

FALL ON ROCK, WEATHER, INEXPERIENCE

Colorado, Flatirons

On May 12, 1986, a female (15) slipped and fell while climbing the second Flatiron in Boulder with her father. Unexpected rainfall had apparently made the rock slippery enough to cause the girl to lose her footing and pendulum. She fractured her left clavicle. Her father managed to get the two to safety in the shelter of an overhanging rock, where they were met by members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group who splinted the injury and evacuated the victim using a litter in a vertical evacuation mode. (Source: Tom Mullen, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group)