

Analysis

Probably the Chouinard locking carabiner which was in place in the upper hole of the standard Clog Ascender, and which attached the ascender to the chest harness, twisted and held the cam of the ascender open while my chest pressed against these items. When I turned away from the rock, the ascender became effective. (Source: Donald Estep, via George Hurley, Mountain Guides Alliance)

FALL ON ROCK**New Mexico, Murallo Grande**

On September 1, 1986, Albuquerque Mountain Rescue was notified by the field coordinator about 1430 of a "person who had fallen 300 meters" in the mountains. Expecting the worst, a strike team was dispatched to the Crest. Upon arriving we encountered a mixed team of rescuers carrying an injured rock climber across the parking lot by the radio towers to a truck. The climber had fallen at 1030 while leading the second pitch of Clark's Cramps on Muralla Grande. Although the fall was short, three meters, and no pieces of protection pulled, he struck a ledge and shattered his ankle. He was lowered to the ground by the belayer, who then rappelled off the route. With the assistance of other climbers in the area, the subject was carried up Chimney Canyon to a point where they were met by Fire District #6 rescue personnel. After some time had elapsed, a litter was brought down and the evacuation was completed. (Source: *Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council Newsletter*, November 1986)

(Editor's Note: We received six other brief accounts of climbing accidents in New Mexico from SAR Officers of the New Mexico State Police. Three of these involved long falls and resulted in fatalities. Next year we will have more detailed information from New Mexico.)

FALL FROM ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY**New York, Shawangunks**

On April 25, 1986, a man (34) fell 12 meters while following on the third pitch of High Exposure (5.6). His belayer, a woman (30), suffered severe rope burns on her hands. She was using a body belay. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY**New York, Shawangunks**

On May 24, and again on July 12, 1986, there were leader falls (both men, ages 26 and 37) from the crux pitch on Ken's Crack (5.7). Both went all the way to the ground and both suffered fractures. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

DISLOCATED KNEE**New York, Shawangunks**

On July 7, 1986, a woman (23) was following and on the third pitch of High Exposure (5.6) when she dislocated her knee. On October 4, 1986, a man (20) did the same thing

when he was following on Jackie (5.5). (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

FALL ON ROCK, WASPS

New York, Shawangunks

On July 27, 1986, a man (21) fell ten meters from Ursula (5.5) in wet conditions while being attacked by wasps. He suffered a compound fracture of one ankle, lacerations, and a possible head injury. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

(Editor's Note: In other critter incidents, one climber was bitten by a snake on top of Three Pines, and another climber received about 40 stings when he climbed into a wasp nest on Fancy Idiot (5.6). Neither fell, and so did not become climbing accident statistics. The snake and wasp population has obviously not decreased here.)

PROTECTION PULLED OUT, FALL TO GROUND

New York, Shawangunks

On August 30, 1986, a man (23) leading Jean (5.9) was being lowered when the highest piece of protection, a nut, pulled. He dropped six meters to the ground, resulting in a possible ankle fracture. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED—IMPROPER PLACEMENT

New York, Shawangunks

On October 10, 1986, a man (26) fell three meters from Matinee (5.10+) when all his nuts pulled out due to no directional. He suffered facial lacerations and a possible skull fracture. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

(Editor's Note: No mention is made as to whether the victim was wearing a hard hat. It would appear not.)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION

New York, Shawangunks

On November 9, 1986, a man (36) fell 20 meters after his protection pulled on Grease Gun Groove (5.6). He fractured his femur. (Source: Tom Scheuer, Senior Ranger, Mohonk Preserve)

(Editor's Note: Of the 23 accidents reported from the Shawangunks this year, 16 happened on less than 5.8 terrain. There were no fatalities here this year.)

LOSS OF CONTROL—RAPPEL, NO BELAY, NO HARD HAT, INEXPERIENCE

North Carolina, Table Rock

On August 16, 1986, a father and two sons were top-roping and rappelling at a popular training area. Their equipment was a few carabiners and some Goldline rope. Seat harnesses were made using Goldline ropes. I observed from about 100 meters east at the