

lowering,” using a top belay as a team member rappelled along side with a leash line system. (Source: Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Association—Accident Summary Committee)

### **Analysis**

This is one example of five situations in Arizona this past year where individuals got themselves into climbing situations and either fell or became stranded. None had climbing experience or were adequately equipped. The region in which the Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Team operates has an apparently disproportionate share of technical rescues for nonclimbers. As their committee points out, the rock in the Phoenix area beckons because of the “stair-step” appearance. (Source: J. Williamson)

## **FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE AND UNROPED, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, EXCEEDING ABILITIES**

### **Arizona, Sedona**

On October 6, 1987, Brian Green (19) was climbing a 5.7 route on the Courthouse Rock Fountain, and while attempting a final chimney near the top, he fell onto a small ledge. Several blocks of sandstone came loose and pinned his left foot. After about two hours of being stranded in that position, he shouted to a hiker 40 meters below. The Sedona Fire Department’s Technical Rescue Squad came and lowered the victim—requiring an estimated 75 person hours. (Source: Reed Thorne, Captain, Sedona Fire Department Technical Rescue Squad)

### **Analysis**

The climber claimed to have about four years of experience. He had no climbing shoes and no climbing equipment, however. The nature of the sandstone on this route warrants a rope and protection. The area is remote as well. (Source: Reed Thorne, Captain, Sedona Fire Department Technical Rescue Squad)

## **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE SELF-BELAY**

### **California, Santa Barbara, San Ysidro Rock**

Excerpts of an account sent to us by a climber (27) may be instructive for solo attempts on rock:

I was climbing the 5.9 variation of Face Lift on San Ysidro Rock. It was a hard move, but I’d done it before with no problem. I fell once, going over backward, but got back up. I tried again. When I fell again, I was coming close to hitting a tree. I didn’t want to do that. I put my foot out to stop myself, but it didn’t stay. I rested a few minutes, then, with a sprained ankle, finished the climb and limped out to the Emergency room. In the future, I will be attached by two ropes when doing high exposure climbs, one to belay me and another tied to the back of my harness so that if I fall, I won’t go over backward like I did this time.