

that such a brief training session is not enough to enable climbers to master the critical self-arrest technique. When Johnson slipped on the steep snowfield at the base of the south face, he was unable to properly use his ice ax to stop or slow his fall. Due to his inability to self-arrest, Johnson slid down the snowfield and struck the rockband where he sustained his injuries.

Johnson's inexperience prevented him from finding the easiest route down. None of the members of the party had apparently taken the time to learn and familiarize themselves with the descent route. They assumed that it was self-evident. Inexperience is also reflected in Johnson's decision to continue his descent of dangerous technical terrain on the east face. Feikin used good judgment when he finally decided to stay put, recognizing that he was on dangerous ground without the necessary experience and equipment to descend safely.

The group did not stay together on the climb. On the ascent, the party was spread out on the east ridge. Then, the two least experienced members of the party were left alone on the summit. All were unsure of the way down.

Macal and Wechner descended all the way to Timberline Lake without waiting for Johnson and Feikin. Macal stayed at Timberline Lake for at least two hours and Wechner stayed there for at least six hours watching Feikin. They made no attempt to reascend all or a portion of the route to help the other two. They did not try to get closer to the bottom of the east face, where they could have seen or heard the other two better. If either had walked around the lake to get closer to the calls they couldn't understand, they would have been able to see and hear Johnson. Where Johnson ultimately fell on the snowfield was only about 300 linear meters above the lake and less than 160 vertical meters up. (Source: Rangers, Grand Teton National Park)

FALLING ROCK—FOOTHOLD BROKE OFF

Wyoming, Tetons

John Hubalek (23) was climbing Baxter's Pinnacle on July 6, 1987, with Randy Harrington. At 1445, Harrington was leading the second pitch of the south ridge when a foothold that he was standing on broke off. A rock, 25 to 30 centimeters in diameter, fell approximately ten meters and struck Hubalek on the head and shoulder. Hubalek was wearing a helmet, but the impact still knocked him unconscious and he was left hanging upside down in his climbing harness.

Leo and Helen Larson were climbing an adjacent pitch and they were able to come to Hubalek's aid and also radio the Jenny Lake Ranger Station to report the accident.

A rotor helicopter was used to sling load equipment to the base of the pinnacle. Hubalek was lowered 100 meters down the cliff and then carried another 400 meters down steep talus and scree to the trail. He was wheeled to the boat dock, taken across the lake in the concessioner's boat, and driven to St. John's Hospital in the park ambulance. He arrived there at 2025. His injuries were diagnosed as a concussion, head laceration and bruised shoulder. Had Hubalek not been wearing a helmet, he very well could have been killed. (Source: Bob Irvine, Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)