

New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service did the carryout. (Source: George Hurley, Mountain Guides Alliance)

Analysis

There have been several accidents at the Cave Wall, one other this summer. The route is graded 5.6 but it's hard for the grade and the crux (the Cave Wall) is impossible to protect well. A .5 Tricam will fit in an old piton hole but it is marginal as protection. The other option is to avoid the wall by climbing as deep in the chimney as possible, placing pro in the chock stones. (Source: George Hurley, Mountain Guides Alliance)

FALLING ROCK

New Hampshire, Cannon Cliff

In May, a climber was injured by rockfall on the upper part of Union Jack on Cannon. Other climbers have reported loose rock on Cannon, including on the Whitney-Gilman arete, Fugue, and Vertigo. Routes on Cannon are more dangerous than most routes of the same grade on cliffs at lower elevation. Of the seven deaths on Cannon, five have involved loose rock. (Source: George Hurley, Mountain Guides Alliance)

PROTECTION PULLED OUT, FALL ON ROCK

New Hampshire, Cathedral Ledges

On July 31 a leader was having trouble getting into the lower of the two V slots on Double Vee (9+) on the upper left wall of Cathedral. He placed a small TCU (three cam unit) and hung from it. As he pulled up on the TCU, it pulled out. In the nine meters of crack below there were two nuts. The highest also pulled out. The other nut was a #1 wire which took some of his weight as the climber hit the ledge and probably kept his injuries from being worse. He broke his left wrist and compressed his thoracic vertebrae. (Source: George Hurley, Mountain Guides Alliance)

Analysis

Protection at the top of this route is difficult to place and the climbing is awkward. More and better protection just below the V slots would have helped. (Source: George Hurley, Mountain Guides Alliance)

(Editor's Note: A New Hampshire winter hike turned into a mountaineering event. While on a winter traverse of the Presidential Range in December, a woman suffered a broken leg when she fell against a rock. The accident happened just below Thunder Storm Junction, 1.9 km from Gray Knob, in a rain storm with winds around 110 km per hour. She and the rest of the party, under the able guidance of Bill Aughton, were wearing crampons for the snow, ice, and frozen ground. It took 13 hours to complete the rescue.)

FALL ON ROCK, EQUIPMENT FAILURE

New Mexico

Recently, an REI customer had an accident while rock climbing in which a carabiner broke. (He was not injured, fortunately.) The customer returned the carabiner to the Albuquerque store, and our testing lab examined the carabiner to find out what went