

to locate Bishops Terrace. Kramer only had a short period of time to climb that afternoon, as he was expected at work at 1530. While looking for the Terrace, Kramer came across Serenity Crack. He stated: "I was running out of time and wanted to climb badly. The crack looked fairly easy so I decided to try it. I climbed up to the first bolt and then came back down because none of my pro would fit. I was running out of time to climb so I said the hell with it and started climbing again. I clipped the first bolt and was almost to the second, within five inches, when my feet started to slip. I yelled for my partner to catch me as I started to slide down on my knees and hands. I could see my partner below me all ready to catch me, but I hit the ground before the rope tightened up." Kramer's partner, Alan Carrey, ran for help to the Ahwahnee where he phoned 911. Kramer was evacuated by park rangers. He had sustained a closed fracture of the tibia and fibula. (Source: John Dill, SAR Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

STRANDED, INADEQUATE CLOTHING, WEATHER

California, Yosemite National Park, Stately Pleasure Dome

On July 14, 1992, Gary Damsley (23) and Allyson Pendleton (29) became stranded during a rain storm they experienced one pitch from the top of South Crack. They became too cold to climb and had to be rescued. (Source: Fred Koegler, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

Analysis

They did not have warm clothing or rain gear with them, and were not aware of the changing weather. This incident nearly parallels the one reported on June 24, only these climbers are from California, not Ireland, and so might have been expected to be more aware of potential weather conditions. (Source: Jed Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, NO SPOTTER

California, Yosemite Valley, Swan Slab

On July 23, 1992, Michael Poulin fell about eight feet to the ground while bouldering in the Swan Slab area. He sustained a severely angulated right ankle fracture. (Source: C. Jacobi, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

(Editor's Note: Many injuries could be prevented if proper spotting techniques were used while bouldering—provided the climber is no more than six or eight feet above the spotter.)

FALL TO GROUND ON RAPPEL, INADEQUATE BELAY, NO HARD HAT

California, Yosemite National Park, Puppy Dome

On July 24, 1992, Mike James (22) and his fellow counselor from a Seventh Day Adventist Camp (Camp Wawona) had set up a rappel on "Do or Fly," an overhanging climb on Puppy Dome. The intent was to teach students to trust each other by having one student rappel "hands-off" (no attempt to brake) while a second student, at the bottom, stops the rappeller by pulling on the rope. James rappelled, but was not stopped before hitting the ground head first. The tension on the rope then bungied him back up, suspending him off the ground. He was evacuated by ranger to Yosemite Medical Clinic.