

moved him into as stable a position as he could and began calling for help.

The Park dispatch office received a report of an accident in Cascade Canyon around 1343 and, at the time, a specific location was not known. Ranger Jim Dorward, who was just below the Forks area, ran 2.5 miles down the trail where a more precise report had led him to believe the accident was in the vicinity of Guides' Wall. This popular rock climb is six pitches in length and is located on the lower southwest ridge of Storm Point. Dorward very quickly ascended what is the normal descent route to a point from which he could traverse a ledge to the accident site. This involved climbing nearly 1,000 vertical feet. He began an initial patient assessment at 1455.

By 1550, a helicopter departed Lupine Meadows for the accident scene. The short-haul litter and the medical and climbing equipment that it contained was delivered to the accident site. Ranger Dorward placed Fleck carefully into the litter on his injured side while the helicopter orbited nearby. Eight minutes later, Dorward successfully attached the litter to the end of the short-haul ropes. The weather at that time was quite bad with 15 mph winds and steady rain. Pilot Will Eldredge managed to accomplish this very tricky maneuver with a main rotor clearance of ten feet. After a flight of four minutes, Fleck was taken into the rescue cache and briefly tended by an air ambulance flight nurse. He was then quickly reloaded into the helicopter and flown directly to St. John's Hospital in Jackson, arriving at 1700, where he received initial treatment. Due to the serious nature of Fleck's multiple injuries, he was flown to the Shock Trauma unit of the LDS hospital in Salt Lake City at 2130.

Analysis

It is unfortunate that Fleck decided to remove two pieces of protection and then put all of his trust in one old, presumably untested, piton.

The rescue itself was one of the most technical short-haul operations yet undertaken in Grand Teton National Park. The speed with which Ranger Jim Dorward climbed safely to the scene, the flying skills and bravery of pilot Will Eldredge and the spotting ability of Ranger Steve Rickert all combined into an effort that was nothing short of heroic. That this was done during very adverse weather conditions is nothing less than astonishing. The application of the short-haul technique has most certainly revolutionized mountain rescue in Grand Teton. (Source: Peter Armington, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

FALL ON SNOW, UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST, INEXPERIENCED

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Mount Teewinot

On July 10, 1992, at 1050, a victim slipped and fell while attempting an ascent of the east face of Teewinot. She and her partner were at the 11,800 foot level near the bottom of the snow-filled couloir that leads to the summit of the peak, just 500 feet above. She lost her footing on the snow, slid for 30 feet and then somersaulted into the talus where she came to rest just slightly above a large cliff. Her climbing partner managed to move her into a stable, sitting position and then started passing the word down the mountain that a rescue was needed. There were four other parties on the face at the time of the accident.

The accident was reported at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station at 1200, and the Aerospatiale Lama was requested from Yellowstone. Due to the longer response time of this helicopter, rangers Larson and Carr were dispatched on foot from the Lupine Meadows parking area at 1215. Upon arrival of the Lama at 1325, rangers Harrington, Irvine

and Dorward were flown to the 11,500 foot saddle on the west side of the mountain with medical gear and limited climbing equipment. Larson was first on the accident scene at 1426 and began an initial patient assessment shortly afterward. She was reported to be in stable condition with possible injuries to her head, lower back and arm.

A decision to short-haul the patient was made and the helicopter was rigged for the operation. The short-haul litter and additional equipment was delivered at 1520 and the patient was placed on a backboard. The hook-up procedure was completed at 1552 and the patient arrived back down at the Lupine Meadows rescue cache after a short, three minute flight. She was transported to St. John's Hospital in Jackson by Park ambulance where she was treated for her injuries and released later in the evening.

Analysis

The victim was very fortunate indeed to have escaped practically unscathed from this mishap. Neither person had ever practiced ice axe self-arrest techniques before the incident. Finally, the response time of Ranger Leo Larson, who climbed approximately 5,000 vertical feet in two hours and 15 minutes, is particularly noteworthy. (Source: Renny Jackson, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

FALL ON ICY ROCK, WEATHER

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Grand Teton

On July 14, 1992, at 0430, three Exum guides left the lower saddle with seven clients to climb the Exum Ridge on the Grand Teton. The route was in bad condition because of recent new snow and freezing temperatures. The group made good progress, but they were slowed by snow and ice on the route and they were belaying more than usual.

At 0855 one guide (44) was nearing the top of the pitch below the friction pitch when he apparently stepped on some ice and fell. He slid about 50 feet to the bottom of the pitch where his fall was stopped as he collided back first with a large block, breaking eight ribs.

The other two guides administered first aid and then started down with the clients. The guides got the clients down past "the wind tunnel" and then one guide proceeded back to the saddle and called the accident in. He then went back to the accident site with one client.

A difficult short-haul rescue ensued under windy conditions at 1835. The victim was at St. John's Hospital by 1858. The serious injury was further complicated by an infection developed while in the hospital. Recovery was complete, but not for a long time. (Source: From an investigation by Bob Irvine, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

(Editor's Note: The guide's fall was due to difficult conditions on a route that is normally no more than a 5.6, and where it is not easy—or usual—to place protection, especially when guiding. This accident is presented because it demonstrates appropriate preparation (clothing) and response by the guides, and another fine rescue carried out by Rangers and the helicopter pilot.)

LOSS OF CONTROL—VOLUNTARY GLISSADE, POOR POSITION

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Disappointment Peak

On July 17, 1992, at 1615, a climber (29) was descending the Lake Ledges route on Disappointment Peak when he fell as he was attempting to glissade down a small patch of