

the belay device. I would like to note that the only reason my head was uninjured (I was not wearing a helmet) was the fact that when I hit the ledge, my head and shoulders were out past the edge and hit nothing but air. It would have been possible to safely lower me from the climb by either executing a knot pass (there were two ropes and two people at the belay), or lowering me to the end of the rope, allowing me to put in a suitable anchor and pull the rope through, and then lowering me the rest of the way to the belay. (Source: David Haagensen)

A few people suggested that a knot should have been tied in the end of the rope. I do not believe this is an adequate practice for safety. A double grapevine or figure of eight knot could slip through a figure eight belay device. I, as a second, should have been tied into the other end of the rope. I had done this many times before, but thought of it as optional on the first pitch. I did it only for convenience so the leader did not pull the rope out of my reach when preparing the higher belay. This situation was a little unusual; the leader is not usually lowered from a lead. Also, most pitches tend to be much less than a full rope length. For these reasons, people may often overlook this safety practice without consequence. (Source: Nathaniel Beckwith)

RAPPEL ANCHOR CAME OUT, FALL ON ROCK Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Mount Moran

RK (23) and JG (20) died of multiple injuries late Friday, September 17, or early Saturday, September 18, 1993, when they fell while climbing the South Buttress of Mount Moran. SG (20) survived the fall and was evacuated from the mountain about 2000 on September 18. The bodies of RK and JG were recovered on September 19. All three climbers were employees at Signal Mountain Lodge.

The accident occurred when the climbers were descending the Direct South Buttress route and a rappel anchor failed. RK and JG, who were both attached to the anchor, fell an estimated 200 to 300 feet. While inconclusive at this time, it is believed that SG was also tied to the anchor and suffered the same fall.

SG sustained fractured vertebrae, puncture wounds, a three-inch full-depth laceration to the scalp, concussion, and multiple bruises. (Source: Mark Magnuson, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park, and the *Jackson Hole News*)

(Editor's Note: The other fatality in Wyoming this year occurred to a 28 year old male soloing Nez Perce's East Ridge in September. He died from the effects of shock and hypothermia.)