

aside any idea of proving themselves. I also encourage all climbers to take into consideration the possible ego-related effects of questioning a fellow climber's abilities, since a wounded ego means impaired judgment. Be diplomatic but firm. (Source: Dan Acland)

(Editor's Note: We appreciate Mr. Acland's candidness. Without his personal viewpoint and understanding, we would only have been able to surmise that he had "placed inadequate protection.")

FALL ON ROCK, NO HARD HAT **California, Norman Clyde Peak**

On August 19, 1994, a group of six experienced mountaineers, most of whom had done over one hundred peaks in the High Sierra, were climbing the North-Northeast Ridge of Norman Clyde Peak. Each climber was well within his/her technical ability and had many years of experience. They were on a fourth class section of the climb at an elevation of about 13,000 feet. The group was climbing unroped, and the victim, Ursula Slager (68) had a helmet. But it was in her pack.

Slager was the trailing member of the group. Other group members heard rockfall from below, looked back, and saw her falling. There was no rockfall from above and nobody was watching as the initial fall occurred, so it is presumed that she either slipped or pulled out a loose hold. She came to rest on a ledge 150 feet below.

When the group members got to her, she had a large gash in the back of her head, was bleeding from both ears, and was not breathing. They immediately started CPR while two members (including the victim's husband) went to call a rescue. The group continued CPR for 3.5 hours to no avail.

Inyo County SAR initiated rescue procedures by arranging for a U.S. Forest Service helicopter to drop team members off as close to the victim as possible. This approach was abandoned when the helicopter developed problems with the fuel system. The SAR team at this time did not know the condition of the victim. It was arranged for a U.S. Navy helicopter to fly in at first light. At 0700, it arrived and lifted the body from the scene.

Analysis

The victim was an experienced mountain climber, and was doing a route within her ability. The fall occurred for reasons unknown. She was not wearing her helmet. (Source: Greg Corliss, Inyo County Sheriff's Posse SAR)

STRANDED, INADEQUATE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

California, Yosemite Valley National Park, Fairview Dome

On August 20, 1994, at 2100, climber Ray Pichette reported to Tuolumne Meadows rangers that he had passed a slow party of two on the Regular Route on Fairview Dome that day, and when he had called up to them later from the base they had indicated that they needed help. He felt they were inadequately clothed for a cold night and lacked headlamps.

Pichette and two rangers recontacted the party by yelling from the road. It was difficult to hear clearly, but they felt the party was four pitches from the top and asking for help.

Thirteen rescue team members hiked to the top of Fairview. Two rescuers were low-

ered over the side at about midnight and reached the stranded party, 500 feet down the face, an hour later. The stranded pair were shivering and reluctant to move, but accepted warm clothes from the rescuers. After dealing with some traverse problems and a stuck rope, everyone had Jumared to the summit by 0320. The incident was completed by 0612.

Analysis

The stranded party, Mary Drumm and Christina Natividad, carried an adequate rack of hardware, but no headlamps and insufficient clothing (e.g., shorts and light shirts). They knew they were climbing slowly and that they had underestimated the length and commitment of the route. They were slowed further by parties passing them and by a party ahead rappelling off because of the late hour. They denied requesting a rescue when they were first contacted. They had hoped to climb out by moonlight, but agreed that they had become too cold to do so on their own. (The low temperature at Tuolumne Meadows that night was 28 F.)

This rescue cost \$2000. (Source: Dave Page, NPS Ranger)

(Editor's Note: This is the kind of rescue that climbers should be charged for, especially given the current need for cost recovery as a result of reduced budgets in the NPS system.)

FALLING OBJECT

California, Yosemite Valley, Half Dome

On August 23, 1994, at 1408, park visitor Manuel Garcia phoned NPS dispatch with the following report: He had been looking at the Northwest Face of Half Dome from the Glacier Point overlook when he saw a blue object fall 200-300 feet and land at the base of the cliff. He was sure it was a human body.

While Ranger Joann Gill drove to Glacier Point to interview Garcia further, Ranger Mike Archer began hiking to Half Dome from his station at Little Yosemite Valley. Because of the potential seriousness of the incident, NPS helicopter H51 was recalled from a fire assignment outside the park, to deliver personnel to the scene.

Archer reached the base of the wall first, where he contacted three climbers from Italy. They admitted deliberately dropping three blue sleeping bags as they retreated from a route. Archer confirmed that no one had fallen and he cleared the scene at 1700.

Analysis

Throwing anything off a route is illegal in the park. The cost in time, dollars, and potential risk when we respond to incidents like this are some of the reasons why. (Source: Loren Fazio, NPS Ranger)

(Editor's Note: While not reported in the Tables, this incident is included, hopefully, for its educational value.)

STRANDED—UNABLE TO LOCATE RAPPEL ANCHOR

California, Yosemite Valley, El Capitan

On August 25, 1994, at 1300, Rangers Keith Lober and Rick Foulks were contacted at El Capitan by a visitor who reported climbers calling for help from the cliff. I was assigned by shift supervisor Jim Tucker to assist Lober with the telescope and PA.