

We later found out she had broken her wrist and cracked her right orbit, too. One week later, she was home and looking forward to a near complete recovery, albeit a lengthy one.

### **Analysis**

The fall should never have occurred. When I saw uncertainty, I should have pulled Debbi off the pitch and led it myself. It probably would have been more effective if I had taken up the slack by running headlong up the hill from the belay and let the belay device catch the fall. The hand over hand technique didn't help much.

Helmets are made to be worn snug to the cranium, not "sort of on top of the head." Wearing a bandanna or other paraphernalia under a helmet just means that it can be knocked out of place when you most need it.

I should NEVER have moved Debbi without immobilizing her spinal column. We were lucky. The "shout line" down the mountain definitely works. People know how to pass along the alarm.

Rocky Mountain Rescue will be getting some more donations. (Source: G. N. Jones)

*(Editor's Note: The reporter of this incident gives us a good narrative description of the aftermath. However, he raises a question in the opening of his analysis. How many of us would "pull" our partner off if he/she seemed hesitant? What is a reasonable way to resolve such an issue?)*

### **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE (NO) BELAY, MISCOMMUNICATION Colorado, Eldorado Canyon State Park, Wind Tower**

On June 30, a climber (16) fell 15 feet onto a rock ledge on Wind Tower. She thought she was being protected by the top rope. The rope went from her belayer (41) through the victim's harness. The belayer did not have her on belay. Consequently, she had no protection when she fell. (Source: J. W. Wilder, Park Ranger)

### **FALL ON SNOW, UNABLE TO PLACE PROTECTION, POOR POSITION Colorado, Mount Powell, Northwest Couloir**

On July 6, W. H. (m. 26) and K. D. (f. 30) decided to climb unroped because of lack of available protection and soft snow unable to hold snow flakes or stakes. At the top of the snowfield, footing gave way, K. D. tumbled down 1,000 feet of Hourglass Couloir, colliding with rock walls of a narrow chute. W. H. climbed down to K.D., while other members of the party left the field for a 911 call. K. D. was conscious with obvious fracture of the upper extremities. SAR responded with 14 members, resulting in Flight for Life evacuation. (Source: Summit County Search and Rescue)

### **FALL ON ROCK, PLACED INADEQUATE PROTECTION, EXCEEDING ABILITIES**

#### **Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park, Bookmark**

On July 11, at 1145, Shanna M. Ryan (26) was climbing Backflip (II 5.9), the first pitch on the Bookmark, when she took a 20 foot lead fall. She had been placing protection at the time of the fall, but suddenly slipped and yelled, "Falling." When she swung into the view of belayer Tye Gribb, Ryan was upside down and unresponsive. Despite wearing a