

(Source: Doug Fesler and Jill Fredston, Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.)
(Editor's Note: This hiking incident fell into the climbing/mountaineering category once Coltman entered the gully containing unstable snow conditions. It should be noted that Boozer was only slightly injured.)

STRANDED—RAPPEL ROPE TOO SHORT

Arizona, Camelback Mountain

On March 15, a person who wishes to remain anonymous was attempting to rappel from a rock face that is 400 feet high. He started rappelling, and when he got close to the end of his rope, he realized he was still 150 feet from the ground. His partner realized he was in trouble and called 911. The Fire Department came to his rescue. He was not injured—except for his ego—as the rescue was video-taped and shown on three major television stations. (Source: Kathy Reichert, Park Manager, City of Phoenix)

(Editor's Note: This is by far the largest error in estimating the length of rope needed for a rappel. Enough said.)

RAPPEL ERROR—FALL ON ROCK

Arizona, Tucson, Papago Buttes

On August 10 at 7:00 pm, Kyle Brown (22) plunged 50 feet off a cliff at Papago Buttes while teaching kids from his church how to rappel.

It took rescue crews about an hour to reach Brown. Fire officials said that Brown's head injuries suppressed his breathing, and by the time firefighters reached him, he did not have a pulse. He was admitted to Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Analysis

Police and fire officials said they were not sure what caused Kyle Brown to fall that night, but they think that Brown was anchored and starting his descent when the accident occurred. Bob Khan, a deputy chief with the Phoenix Fire Department, said they were not sure whether a knot used to support Brown failed or whether he lost his footing.

Rescue crews frequently respond to calls involving the park for stuck or injured rappellers, but this is the first fatal accident there in years. The majority of calls are to Camelback and Squaw Peak, with the rest divided among North Mountain, South Mountain and Papago Buttes. According to Khan, the problem with Papago is that the rock there is not like Squaw Peak or Camelback. It is clay-like, and it is inviting because the rocks are rounded. They are deceptively high and pretty easy to climb. (Source: From a report in *The Arizona Republic* by Christina Leonard.)

FALL ON SNOW, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, PLACED NO PROTECTION, NO HARD HAT, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

California, Castle Crag Wilderness

On March 23, John Stafford (17), who had some training and experience in rock climbing, made climbing the focus of his senior project. Ian Smith (18), who had no climbing experience, came to take photos of John. After taking the