

through the night until rescue operations could begin the following morning. Park and local rescue teams raised Alberts up the North Chasm wall over 1,500 feet to the rim of the canyon. The mission took about five hours and over 25 rescuers to complete. Marion Parker was IC.

On July 9, Martha Moses (41) fell while lead-climbing Cruise Gully after she and her partner abandoned a climb on the Leisure route. Moses was climbing 50 feet above her first protection in intermittent rain when she apparently lost her footing, fell and tumbled about 80 feet, sustaining severe head injuries. Her partner contacted ranger Ed Delmolino, who responded along with a paramedic from a local EMS squad.

The nighttime litter evacuation involved lowering her down the remainder of the gully in rain, lightning, and continuous rock falls. Moses was then raised over 1,500 feet up the North Chasm wall to the rim and flown by helicopter to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, where she underwent surgery for a skull fracture.

The entire operation took 12 hours and involved 50 rescuers and support personnel, including a number of local, county, and volunteer rescue squads. These two operations constitute the most significant technical raises to date in the park. (Source: Linda Alick, Black Canyon of the Gunnison)

(Editor's Note: These are the first reports from Black Canyon in a long time. It is interesting to note their final comment, which might explain this.)

FALLING ICE

Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park, Longs Peak

On June 25, Jesse Woods (20) and Scott Kastengren were preparing to climb the third pitch of the Casual Route (IV 5.10) on the Diamond of Longs Peak when Woods was struck in the face by falling ice. He sustained lacerations to the forehead (requiring 22 sutures), a concussion, fractured nose, and hematomas surrounding both eyes. Kastengren lowered Woods back down to Broadway Ledge where they were assisted by two other climbers known as Al and Craig. At Mills Glacier they were joined by park rescue for a helicopter evacuation.

Analysis

Late spring and early summer bring the highest incidence of falling ice with the advent of longer days and warmer temperatures. However, it is possible to encounter falling ice and falling rock (due to freeze/thaw cycles) at any other time of year on Longs Peak depending on conditions. While it is sometimes possible to gauge the hazard by inspecting the upper face with binoculars, there is no certain way to predict the risk of falling ice here.

Woods was wearing his helmet and was clipped into the belay anchors at the time of the accident, preventing more serious consequences. Woods and Kastengren, with the assistance of fellow climbers who kindly assisted in the spirit of true mountaineers, did an excellent job in evacuating from the Diamond and Lower East Face. (Source: Jim Detterline and Mark Magnuson, NPS Rangers, RMNP)