

was concerned about the possibility of other injuries, and so he immediately sought help. She was wearing a helmet. (Source: Dan Burgette, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

## **FALL ON ROCK**

### **Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Table Mountain**

On August 8, Don Rassler reported that his climbing partner, Ben Goodwin (22), had fallen about 10-20 feet while down-climbing the first pitch of Heart-break Ridge on Table Mountain around 0830. He barely began to catch Goodwin on the climbing rope when Goodwin landed squarely on his back near him. Being in a precarious location, the two were able to down-climb a short distance to a safe location, at which time Rassler, a Wilderness First Responder, decided to seek rescue assistance due to what he felt was significant injury to Goodwin's lower back, with potential spinal compromise.

Ranger Johnson received the initial report and relayed information to rescue coordinator Montopoli. The contract helicopter transported seven rangers to a landing zone in the South Fork of Cascade Canyon near the injured climber. Rangers Burgette, Guenther, and Johnson climbed to Goodwin, rendered medical assistance, and after evaluating the scene determined that a short-haul operation was the best method of extraction. Medical control was contacted and concurred with the decision.

Goodwin was short-hauled to the landing zone. Goodwin was then flown internally to Lupine Meadows with Rangers Perch and Jernigan as attendants. Goodwin was then transferred to the park ambulance and transported to St. John's Hospital. He was treated for abrasions and contusions and released. He had no spinal injury.

### **Analysis**

Having medical training is important for climbers. Rassler did a good job of assessing that there might be a significant spinal injury due to the mechanism of injury and the signs and symptoms. The contusions Goodwin received to his back resulted in pain that could have been associated with a spinal injury. Without an X-ray machine, everyone treated Goodwin as if he had a spinal injury. A basic knowledge of what to do and what NOT to do can make a big difference when a member of your party is hurt. (Source: Dan Burgette, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

## **FAILURE TO TEST HOLDS—HANDHOLD CAME OFF, FALL ON ROCK**

### **Wyoming, Wind River Range, Jackson Peak**

On August 11 about 1100, Bev Boynton (51) and David Moore of Jackson, WY, were finishing the final pitch on the South Buttress of Jackson Peak in the Wind River Range of Wyoming. While Boynton was leading at about 12,800 feet, she pulled off a large flake of rock which caused her to fall about fifteen feet onto the ledge below. She sustained multiple injuries and believed that she had a pneumothorax. Moore gave her warm clothes and went for assistance. When he arrived at Indian Basin, he located campers with a cell phone and called the Jenny Lake Ranger Station in Grand Teton National Park. When

the Sublette County Sheriff's Office was notified, they requested the park rangers assist in the rescue.

Two park rangers and a Physician's Assistant were flown to Moore's location in Indian Basin. Helicopter short-haul technique was then used to insert rescuers to the accident site. Boynton's injuries were assessed and treated, and she was short-hauled to the basin below. Boynton was then transferred to an air ambulance from the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and flown to St. John's Hospital in Jackson. She had multiple injuries, including a pulmonary contusion and torn ankle ligaments.

### **Analysis**

This is another case of a large block pulling loose. A very experienced climber was caught by this objective danger. Testing holds and not having the belayer standing directly below the climber are important. This was a good example of climbers with a different mind-set than we often see in the Tetons. This party was nineteen miles from the trailhead. Boynton assumed that she would be spending the night on her ledge, and the party was prepared for that, mentally and gear-wise. Amazingly, the cell phone Moore borrowed got out of the basin beneath the peak and Boynton was evacuated that evening. Cell phones can be a real help when they are genuinely needed and if they work, but they are not more important than self-help and being prepared. (Source: Dan Burgette, SAR Ranger, Grand Teton National Park)

## **HANDHOLD CAME OFF—STRUCK BY ROCK**

### **Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Disappointment Peak**

On August 17, John Taylor (29) was climbing the Lake Ledges route on Disappointment Peak when he dislodged a rock. The rock struck him on the left chest, and then hit his feet and ankles. He tumbled about ten feet after the rock passed. His sister ran down for help. Ranger Andy Byerly saw her run past him, but thought she was just a jogger. Another visitor informed Byerly of the incident. He radioed the information he had at 1630 to SAR coordinator Burgette. Rangers Jackson and Motter had just finished the Open Book climb on the south side of Disappointment, and they were only about 200 yards from Taylor when they heard Byerly's report. Climbing with them was Dr. Oram, an emergency physician. They reached Taylor, did an assessment, and requested that a helicopter be dispatched. After discussion, it was decided to fly to the scene, do a power check, and if everything looked good, land on the plateau above the incident site, let out ranger Johnson with med gear, and return for the short-haul litter.

The park's contract helicopter, piloted by Jim Hood, arrived at the SAR cache at 1712. After a briefing, they flew to the site and found good conditions. The patient was packaged and short-hauled to the heli-spot, and then flown inside the ship to Lupine Meadows where Medic I was waiting to transport Taylor to St. John's Hospital. The rescue team was flown from the heli-spot and reached Lupine Meadows at 1910.

Taylor was found to have lacerations, contusions, and fractures in his left foot.