

VARIOUS FALLS, OVERDUE, LOST, AND TWO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

California, Mount Shasta

With above normal snowpack, climbing conditions remained fairly good through most of the season (May-September). This was the third year with no fatalities and decreasing rescues and searches. Helicopters were used only twice for the total of five rescues. A helicopter was used once during a search. Of the three searches, two involved climbing parties who ran later than expected and had to bivouac, while one involved a lost climber.

One contributing cause to this decrease in searches and rescues may be due to climbing safety education and information provided by the Mount Shasta Climbing Rangers through presentations in retail stores and outdoor clubs, contact with the public on the mountain, the web page and the telephone recording. In addition, information provided by the Station's front desk personnel has added to the public's safety.

Most of the public assists this season involved route finding, instruction on proper equipment use (glissading) and assistance with these skills. Commercial climbing guides performed two rescues and one search involving their clients. As far as search, rescue, and public assists go, it was a quiet season on Mount Shasta. (Source: Eric White-Climbing Ranger and Avalanche Specialist)

FALLING ROCK-DISLODGED

Colorado, Boulder Creek Canyon

On July 16, Emergency squads rescued a man who was pinned on the bank of Boulder Creek when a rock the size of a couch crushed his leg this morning. The man, identified as Boulder resident Douglas Shaw, writhed in agony for more than 30 minutes as crews used winches and chains to stabilize the rock and then inch it off Shaw's right leg. Shaw and two companions, identified as Mary Riddel and Simon Peck, were preparing to cross the creek on a traverse rope used to reach a climbing area on the southern slope of Boulder Canyon about ten miles west of Boulder. Riddel and Peck told rescuers that they were standing on the large rock around 9:45 a.m. while Shaw prepared to clip onto the traverse rope. The rock suddenly rolled and then slid onto Shaw's leg, crushing it. Freeing Shaw required closing CO Route 119 through Boulder Canyon for nearly an hour, causing traffic to back up more than a mile in each direction. Shaw remained conscious throughout the ordeal and was able to talk with rescue crews. He was taken by ambulance to Boulder Community Hospital at about 10:35 a.m. (Source: Greg Avery, Boulder Daily Camera, July 17, 2003)

FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION CAME OUT

Colorado, Boulder Canyon, Cobb Rock

A 20-year-old Air Force Academy cadet fell about 65 feet while still attached to his line during a climb at Cobb Rock in Boulder Canyon on August 17. The initial report from a witness who called 911 about 3:20 p.m. was that