

- Two ropes were connected together (red rope anchored to the top of the cliff, white rope tied to red).
- He had, apparently, fallen onto two small ledges prior to coming to rest in an eight-foot high bush growing in the ground.
- His body displayed severe trauma to multiple areas and did not appear to have survived the fall.

The following conclusions were drawn. Due to the configuration of the equipment on the rope, it appears that the man was rappelling down the red rope, reached the knot with the intent of passing it in order to continue rappelling to the ground. There did not appear to be any indication that there were equipment malfunctions. Carabiners were properly locked and an ascender was being used as a back-up device. There did not appear to be any indication that the subject did not double back his harness. Possibly he was unable to properly pass the knot on rappel and may have removed the harness and attempted to move to a ledge and off the cliff.

From information gathered from his wife, A.M. was an experienced climber and rappeller. His equipment seemed to be well worn, suggesting that it was often used. A.M. did leave his wife with information regarding his destination, but since he was alone, he would have been unable to seek immediate assistance in the event that he was able to do so, which he was not in this instance. (Source: From a report submitted by David Bremson, Rescue Specialist with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, part of Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Association.)

VARIOUS FALLS ON SNOW ON DESCENT

California, Mount Shasta, Avalanche Gulch

At least ten or twelve people slipped on snow descending Avalanche Gulch on Mount Shasta. Most appear to have been inexperienced. For example, one woman was carrying her ice ax upside down, so when she fell, the pick actually penetrated her neck and trachea! Most falls resulted in fractures or dislocations. These incidents happening on descent account for over 30 percent of this year's number in that category.

There was one fatality in March. A young man (21) climbing with his brother on the Casaval Ridge route was close to the 12,000 foot level when he tripped and fell 1,000 feet. He could not self-arrest. This route is not classified as technical climbing but is very exposed and long falls occur almost yearly, according to the rangers. (Source: From reports submitted by Matt Hill, Lead Climbing Ranger and Eric White, Climbing Ranger)

FALL ON WET ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION, INADEQUATE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE, EXPOSURE, NO HARD HAT

California, Yosemite Valley, Royal Arches

On March 7, Greg McFalls (28) and I, Joe Hardy (25), set out to climb