

a trad route on a crag otherwise full of bolted climbs. He had placed three pieces when he fell. The third piece, a large nut, pulled when it was loaded. He hit the ground, landing on rocks and bushes.

Salt Lake County SAR and Unified Fire responded. They packaged Daniel in a litter and vacuum splint and lowered him down the scree slope to the trailhead. He was then transported by ambulance.

Analysis

Hellgate Cliffs are a limestone outcrop in Little Cottonwood. This area is known for rockfall and pulled holds. It is likely that poor rock quality contributed to the failure of the nut placement. (Source: Tom Moyer, Salt Lake County Sheriff's Search and Rescue)

FALLING ROCKS—DISLODGED BY PULLING ON ROPE

Utah, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Church Vaults

On September 3, Gary Wholfarth (43) and two friends had been climbing in the Church Vaults area of Little Cottonwood Canyon. In the process of pulling their rope after a climb, it became stuck in the rocks. When they pulled hard on the rope to free it, several large rocks were dislodged. One of them hit Gary in the head, injuring him despite the helmet he was wearing. One friend ran down the trail to the road to call for help while the other started walking Gary down the trail. Before SAR team members had arrived, the two climbers reached the road and Gary was transported by ground ambulance to the hospital.

Analysis

Any time a rope is being pulled, rockfall is a possibility. Wearing a helmet is always a good idea, but it's also best to move out of the line of fire before pulling. In most places it is possible to pull from a location other than directly under the rope. (Source: Tom Moyer, Salt Lake County Sheriff's Search and Rescue)

(Editor's Note: There were a few other accidents in Utah this year, most notably an ice climbing fatality on Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon. No details were available other than that it was a 32-year-old man who fell 200 feet.)

LOSS OF CONTROL—VOLUNTARY GLISSADE, FAULTY USE OF CRAMPONS

Washington, Mount Adams

On June 24, a climber (38), who had summited Mount Adams alone, was descending wearing crampons when the points on the right crampon "caught" his left leg, causing him to fall and resulting in a broken ankle.

He was assisted down by a group of climbers until Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit evacuated him on a Cascade litter. It involved multiple lowers. A lengthy transport by a wheel litter brought him to the road head, where two "Good Samaritans" transported him to Seattle. Klickitat Search and