

Smith's climbing rope caught him, but he swung out from the overhanging rock-face and struck a tree with his leg.

His belayer and climbing partners made a 911 call, then attended to his injuries until rescuers arrived. A technical hauling system was constructed and litter to the cliff top raised Smith. He was then flown to a hospital in Charleston. (Source: Frank Sellers, Park Ranger)

(Editor's Note: It is likely that inadequate protection played a part in this incident. It is the only incident reported for 2008 from this popular climbing area.)

FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT

Wisconsin, Devil's Lake State Park

In late May, a rock climber was rescued after falling about 40 feet. The 20-year-old man was taken by helicopter to University Hospital in Madison after he was stabilized by first-responders from Baraboo.

Authorities say the man and his girlfriend were climbing in an area above a trail Monday evening when he fell and suffered broken bones and other injuries.

Baraboo Ambulance Assistant Chief Kristine Snow said the accident is the first at Devil's Lake this year. Last year, ambulance workers were called to the park 18 times for rock-climbing injuries. (Source: From an article in the *Baraboo News Republic*)

(Editor's Note: We have not been able to get incident data or narratives from Devil's Lake State Park in many years. It is obvious that there is a lot of climbing activity there with the number of responses needed. Our experience from the past tells us, however, that many—at least half—of the climbing-related callouts happen to individuals who were just scrambling about with no intention of climbing or being in a climbing situation.)

STRANDED – UNABLE TO FREE RAPPEL ROPE, WEATHER, HYPOTHERMIA

Wyoming, Devil's Tower

On the evening of May 23rd, the park received a call from two stranded climbers (ages unknown) who were on the southwest face of the tower, asking for help. Aaron Turner and Travis Hubble were stranded one pitch down on the southwest rappel route, unable to pull their ropes from above due to a knot. The climbers had no headlamps, but were able to use the flash on their camera to help rescuers locate them. Due to lightning, thunder, fog and rain, though, it proved nearly impossible to determine their exact location. After communicating with Turner, climbing rangers learned that the two men had both ends of their rope and webbing material that could be used to make a Prusik to ascend their stuck ropes. Due to the hazardous conditions, the rangers determined that the safest and quickest way to facilitate a rescue would be to instruct Turner to ascend up his ropes to free the