

Russell was immobilized on a backboard and extracted. They arrived at Lupine Meadows about 1430. He was transported to St. John's Hospital via Medic. At St. John's Hospital, Russell was diagnosed with a left orbital fracture, lacerated spleen, left tibia fracture, trauma to both knees and chin, and other injuries.

At the accident site, Rangers Jernigan and Vidak assisted Russell's three companions from their locations on technical ground in the NW Couloir to the helispot. They were then flown down by helicopter to the Lupine Meadows Rescue Cache.

### **Analysis**

They had left Lupine Meadows Parking Area at about 0300 hours and ascended the East Face route of Teewinot. They arrived at the summit about 0900. They intended to descend the Southwest Couloir; however, when they arrived at the V-notch, about 200 feet below and to the southeast of the Teewinot summit, they were unaware of the need to ascend up and over a ridge into the next gully, which leads to the SW couloir. They therefore began a descent into the Northwest Couloir, putting them off-route.

Russell was completely inexperienced with climbing on steep snow/ice and using an ice ax and crampons. (Source: Ranger George Montopoli—Incident Commander, Investigating Ranger)

## **FALLING ROCK – FAILURE TO TEST HOLDS**

### **Wyoming, Wind River Range, Cirque of the Towers**

On August 1, while ascending Pingora Peak, Kelsey Dayton pulled a large rock off while following Joe Kelsey up a 4th-class chimney. The rock grazed her helmeted head then broke her left humerus.

### **Analysis**

Mid-altitude mountaineering in this location has significant loose rock hazards due to freeze/thaw cycles. (Source: John Gookin, SAR Commander, FSCO)

## **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION – FAILURE TO BRING RACK, FAILURE TO TURN BACK – WEATHER**

### **Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, East Face of Mount Teewinot**

On August 16 about 0500, Brian Barwatt (31) and I (Van Roberts, 22) departed the Lupine Meadows trailhead for a traverse of Teewinot to Mount Owen. We had been climbing in the area for about a week and had gotten up the East Ridge of Wolf's Head III—5.6, the Northeast Face of Pingora IV—5.8, and the Complete Exum Ridge on the Grand Teton IV in a day. We also climbed The Snaz IV—5.9. We had spoken to a ranger at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station regarding our intended route and felt comfortable with it. The climbing is rated 5.4 at the hardest, with most of the route being