

there are times that due to weather, resource availability, and other external factors, decisions must be made based on the possibility of the worst-case scenario unfolding. (Source: David Weber, Mountaineering Ranger)

(Editor's Note: There were a number of medical issues on Denali this year. These were not considered "accidents" because they did not happen as a result of climbing. The HAPE and HACE cases that happened because of ascending too rapidly, however, are counted—and reported on—though not all appear in the narratives above. The medical episodes included several separate guided clients and two non-guided climbers developing AMS and then HAPE signs and symptoms after a normal ascent time; and a 55-year-old client with a previous history of a kidney stone who experienced severe abdominal pain. All these resulted in evacuation from the mountain.)

BEE SWARM – STRANDED

Arizona, Mount Lemon

On August 11, a rock climber was stung more than 1,000 times when he and his three partners encountered a beehive about 6:30 p.m. and were attacked atop Mount Lemmon.

His partners were able to escape the swarm, but he was stranded for several hours. Search and rescue crews were able to rescue him about 9:15 p.m. after rappelling down to his location.

The four climbers suffered more than 1,300 bee stings, with the stranded climber suffering more than 1,000 stings. Three of the four were hospitalized. (Source: Edited from a posted report by Brian Pederson, on the *Arizona Daily Star* site)

(Editor's Note: It has been a few years since the last report of bees being encountered by climbers. Bees are a common hazard in some climbing areas, so it is good to check with locals and/or land managers before climbing.)

ROCKFALL, FALL ON ROCK, BELAYER LOST CONTROL WHEN STRUCK BY ROCK

Arizona, Prescott National Forest, Granite Mountain

On December 12, Elise Anderson (21), Jeff Rome (21), and Chris Shanehoffer (26), went to climb at Granite Mountain. Their route for the day was Granite Jungle—two pitches of 5.6 leading into the third pitch of Chieu Hoi—5.9. They started their hour and a half hike to the base of the cliff at 0730. They left their packs at an open ledge called the "Front Porch" and scrambled the 300-meter climber trail to the base of the route.

Elise chose to lead the first pitch, as she had previously followed it. She protected the bottom of the pitch with two evenly spaced pieces of gear. About 40 feet above the base, she assessed a large block wedged in the crack and chose to sling it as natural pro for her third protection point. (Local climbers attest to testing, pulling, and standing on this block in the past. It