

evacuation. Rescue crews had to rig up a technical rope rescue that involved six pitches to get down to walk-able terrain (almost 1,200 feet down). The effort was hampered by significant loose rock and a lot of rockfall. Rescuers were able to evacuate Glenn to a suitable landing area, where a Blackhawk military helicopter ferried him to another landing site near Brainard Lake. A Flight For Life then flew Glenn to St. Anthony Central Hospital. (Source: Boulder County Sheriff's Department Press Release)

## **FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT**

### **Colorado, Eldorado Canyon State Park**

On August 21, 2010, Donald Budlong fell from the slippery crux on the Bastille Crack (5.7+) and pulled two pieces, the highest of which was placed in the large flake to the right of the actual crack. He suffered a broken pelvis and other injuries.

#### **Analysis**

Stemming across from the big hollow flake to the actual Bastille Crack is not very uniform. The crack widens as it goes deeper into the formation. Most climbers place gear at this point and take the time to check to be sure that the placement is in a spot where it won't walk deeper into the crack. (Source: From a post on mountainproject.com)

## **FALL ON ROCK – LOOSE ROCK, CLIMBING UNROPE, CLIMBING ALONE**

### **Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park, Longs Peak, The Diamond,**

On August 27 at 8:00 a.m., two NPS Climbing Rangers on the third pitch of Yellow Wall on The Diamond heard rockfall and saw several large rocks and a person falling in the vicinity of Broadway Ledge (a large ledge at the base of the Diamond) near the top of the North Chimney (the 800 foot, 5.6 approach climb that leads to Broadway). Benjamin Hebb (26), an experienced climber, fell down the North Chimney onto the Mills Glacier sustaining fatal injuries. The Rangers rappelled 1600 feet down the Yellow Wall and down the Lower East face to the body. Meanwhile another Ranger on patrol in the area had also arrived at the scene. Hebb's body was flown off the glacier with a helicopter.

During the resulting investigation Rangers determined that this climber had been attempting to aid-solo the Dunn-Westbay (grade V, 5.8, A3) route on the Diamond. He had started early that morning and soloed up the North Chimney to the base of this route. He likely had just started climbing up the route when he pulled a loose rock off and fell to his death. His rope was still in his pack when he was found.

#### **Analysis**

Even though no one will ever know the full story behind this tragic incident, it is likely that this climber's fall resulted from loose rock. This experienced