

A person in the party above was a doctor and one person below was a nurse. Those two parties worked tirelessly to stabilize the injured climber and set up anchors needed to bring up rescue personnel. It took about two hours for the first rescuer to arrive, as the narrow canyon and trees made it difficult for the helicopter to do much. I think they were able to drop off people and gear bit by bit at about the halfway point on the trail. (I waited at the Slot Machine anchor with a partner—until it was confirmed that we would not be needed for assistance immediately—and watched the helicopter make several passes.

After another hour or so and after about three more SAR personnel arrived, they built a setup of anchors and pulleys using trees and boulders on the ground. Luckily we had extra ropes and plenty of people on the ground to assist with hauling a rescuer and litter up to the ledge. When the climber was in the litter, he was lowered with the rescuer and several of us helped pull the litter away from the water and carried it up to a point where the helicopter could drop a line and evacuate the patient by air. From fall to helicopter lift, the whole event took about eight hours.

I was told that the injuries included fractured leg and vertebrae with likely paralysis as a result. (Source: Edited from a post on mountainproject.com by Joseph Stover)

FALL ON ROCK, MISCOMMUNICATION

Nevada, Red Rock Canyon NCA, The Gallery

In late November, this incident arose from belayer error and miscommunication. The climber's belayer was deaf, while the climber could hear. They had some form of sign language while climbing. When she fell, her belayer's anchor was clipped and the rope was running through the belayer's ATC. (This I know because I later watched people remove the gear.)

People quickly responded and called 911. A former EMT/Paramedic supported her head while others kept her comfortable and warm. She was conscious, able to wiggle her toes, and could sense pressure on her feet.

Some friends of mine ran to the road to guide the EMS team to the crag, most of whom were extremely out of shape and took a longer than usual time to arrive. They further helped stabilize her and put her on a body board. A helicopter was called in and 90 minutes after the fall, she was short hauled to the road and put in an ambulance.

Through friends and acquaintances in common in the Bay Area, I've heard that she suffered lower vertebrae fractures and a potential ankle injury. (Source: Edited from a post on mountainproject.com by "Owie")