

Teton Science School and Salys works for another organization in Wilson, WY. Johnson and Backlund were casually acquainted with Redmond through the Teton Science School. They had known each other for about a month. Johnson, Backlund, and Salys were better acquainted with each other and had embarked on previous ski mountaineering outings including some in the Teton Range. This was the first ski mountaineering trip either of them had taken with Redmond. Johnson and Backlund knew Redmond was a good skier. Conversations they had with Redmond indicated that he had been a high school ski racer and had some backcountry skiing experience. They weren't sure about his ski mountaineering background.

In discussing this accident with Backlund, Johnson, and Salys they offered these observations. They stated it would have been nice to know more about Redmond, including his emergency contact information and his ski mountaineering background. Backlund observed that Redmond had stated that he was excited to ski the Ellingwood Couloir and hoped to "ski it hard." This statement and the aggressive way Redmond initiated his turns surprised Backlund, who was more accustomed to a conservative approach of testing the snow with skis on before committing to more aggressive turns. Finally, they commented that it would be difficult to arrest a fall on the steep, firm snow that existed in the Ellingwood Couloir. This is an important point. On steep, firm snow a fall must be arrested immediately to avoid serious consequences. (Source: Ranger Ron Johnson – Incident Commander)

OFF ROUTE, FALL ON SNOW/ICE – UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST, FAULTY USE OF CRAMPONS, NO HARD HAT, INEXPERIENCE

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Middle Teton

About 1000 on July 29, Ryan Haymaker (21) and Andy Friedlund were attempting to climb the Middle Teton, but they mistakenly ascended the Ellingwood Couloir instead of the traditional Southwest Couloir farther to the west. Near the top of the Ellingwood Couloir they were unable to continue because the climbing became much steeper and significantly more difficult. They then began descending. Initially they down-climbed, but after a while they began to glissade with Friedlund going first. After descending about one-third of the couloir, Haymaker lost control and slid past Friedlund. He hit rock and began to tumble. He came to rest about 1,200 feet later on the apron just short of the talus. He sustained critical injuries.

Exum guide Chris Figenshau and Teton County SAR volunteer notified GTNP dispatch of the accident at 1043 and nearby climbers stabilized Haymaker. Four rangers were then shuttled by a GTNP contract helicopter to the incident scene. Once on scene, rangers further stabilized Haymaker, securing him onto a backboard. He was carried about 75 yards on the backboard to the helicopter, where he was loaded internally and

flown to the Lupine Meadows Rescue Cache. Park Medical Advisor Dr. Will Smith provided advanced medical interventions. Haymaker was then transported to the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center via their emergency helicopter. Haymaker's climbing partner, Andy Friedlund (21), was flown in helicopter to Lupine Meadows from the accident scene with the remaining three rangers.

Analysis

Ryan Haymaker had very little, if any, mountaineering experience. He was originally part of a group of four people who obtained the overnight permit for Garnet Canyon. They split into two parties in the canyon on their approach day. The following day, one party headed for the South Teton, and the other party (R. Haymaker and A. Friedlund) headed for Middle Teton. Because Haymaker and Friedlund headed up the wrong couloir, there is a good chance that they did not receive any information about the route at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station prior to the ascent. Those without prior knowledge often mistake the Ellingwood Couloir for the Southwest Couloir. It is a very steep couloir approaching 50 degrees near its top and has a slant to it so that people who fall often crash into exposed rocks on its west side and middle. A sliding fall in the couloir without wearing helmet can be disastrous, as was the case with Haymaker. Furthermore, few experienced climbers would consider glissading this couloir wearing crampons. Most down-climb the couloir, and some even rappel it, creating anchors in the snow or on the rock walls on its sides. (Source: Ranger George Montopoli – Incident Commander)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE, INEXPERIENCE

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Grand Teton

On Saturday July 31, Don Ivie (44) arrived in Jackson with his wife Yvette from Springfield, Missouri. That afternoon, Ivie visited the Jenny Lake Ranger Station to inquire about route conditions and any other route information he could gather. During his contact with Ranger Schuster, he mentioned that he was going to start his climb at about 4:00 a.m. the following morning. Schuster advised him that it would probably be better for him to leave sometime around 1:00 a.m. in order to avoid potential afternoon storms. Schuster also advised Ivie that he would need an ice ax in order to get up and down from the Lower Saddle.

Later in the day, Ivie had a conversation with Ken Jern about climbing the Grand Teton the following day. Jern, a former Exum Mountain Guide with many years of experience climbing the Grand Teton, advised Ivie to take his time and, since Ivie was going to be in the area for nine days, become acclimatized to the elevation while attempting a smaller objective. Jern also suggested that Ivie should consider hiring a guide to take him up the Grand Teton. It appeared to Jern that Ivie was very determined that he was going to climb the Grand Teton early in the trip.