

Fall on Rock, Loose Rock - Rockfall, Failure to Test Hold

California, Yosemite Valley, Sentinel Rock

On June 20 two experienced male climbers (32 and 39) from Japan were scrambling down the gully behind Sentinel Rock (the standard descent), after climbing the Steck-Salathé route (16 pitches, 5.10b). One warned the other of a possible loose slab. The other used it for balance, but it slid on sand, hit him, and sent him on a tumbling fall. His partner went for help. We short-hauled the patient. The fall resulted in a fractured lumbar spine and pneumothorax, but he's making a full recovery. (Source: John Dill, Ranger.)

Images

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