

Stranded - New and Unexpected Situation, Exceeding Abilities

California, Yosemite National Park, Lambert Dome, Northwest Books

On August 2, Carl and Michelle (both from Canada) climbed Northwest Books (5.6). The descent is second- or third-class, but they found themselves on some slabs that Michelle was afraid to cross, despite her 5.7 climbing ability. Carl built a rappel anchor, but by this time, per Carl, Michelle was "freaked out": frozen with fear and unwilling to go back, ascend, or rappel to ledges below. They had food, water, two 60-meter ropes, and one headlamp. The sun was setting, so they called for help. SAR team members hiked to the summit, built belay anchors, descended to the party, and then guided them to the summit and the trail. (Source: John Dill, NPS Ranger.)

Images

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