



## AAC Publications

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### **Fall on Rock – Inadequate Protection**

Oregon, Smith Rock State Park, Christian Brothers

**On September 3, Peter Kettering, 61, was starting up what he believed was Revelations (5.9). In fact, he was mistakenly leading the harder climb Irreverence (5.10a).** Just before clipping the first bolt, Kettering fell 12 to 15 feet to the ground. Kettering injured both ankles in the fall and was carried to an ambulance.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Smith Rock is known for high first bolts. The use of a spotter or bouldering pad before clipping the first bolt is recommended. Many climbers employ stick clips for routes with difficult or high first clips.

While climbing off-route or misreading the guidebook will happen, climbers should be aware of their limits and downclimb if they discover the route is more difficult than expected. (Source: Matt Crawford, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue.)

**Images**

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