

Fall on Rock – Inadequate Protection

California, Yosemite Valley, Half Dome

In October, Alex Doria was injured in a long fall on the third pitch of the Regular Northwest Face on Half Dome. Doria had made a substantial runout to a stance near the end of the 5.8 pitch and was preparing to place a piece when he lost his balance and fell. He broke his L1 vertebra and bones in his foot and wrist. His climbing partner, Jonathan Wachtel, was able to get him to the base of the wall, from which he was evacuated by helicopter.

Details and analysis of this incident can be heard in Episode 29 of the Sharp End Podcast:

Images

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