



## AAC Publications

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### **Fall on Ice – Failure to Self-Arrest, Inadequate Equipment**

Oregon, Mt. Hood

**At 10:40 a.m. on May 7, John Jenkins (32) was ascending the South Side (Hogsback) route on Mt. Hood when he slipped on ice above the bergschrund and was unable to self-arrest.** He was unroped at the time and fell approximately 600 feet into the Devil's Kitchen area, sustaining multiple serious injuries.

A number of climbers, including an emergency room physician and an EMT, assisted in his care. A 911 cell phone call activated rescue resources, and a Portland Mountain Rescue team arrived on scene within an hour. An Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter performed a hoist evacuation 4.5 hours after the fall, but Jenkins' medical condition deteriorated rapidly, and he succumbed to his injuries prior to reaching Legacy Emanuel Medical Center.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The cause of the fall is unknown. The climber's inability to self-arrest the fall may be attributed to inadequate equipment. Jenkins was using ski poles with self-arrest grips at the time of the fall. His ice axe was strapped on his backpack. During icy conditions, a self-arrest ski pole is no substitute for an axe. Roped climbing and anchored belays should also be considered in these conditions. (Source: Portland Mountain Rescue.)

**Images**

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