



AAC Publications

Ground Fall – Inadequate Protection

North Carolina, Hanging Rock State Park, Moore's Wall

Late in the afternoon on October 13, JLC (22) fell approximately 30 feet while leading the traditional route Breaking Rocks Is Hard to Do (5.9). JLC stated that he had been climbing for several years and had led the route before. He was 15 feet above his second piece of protection and getting ready to place a third when he “lost his grip” and fell. This resulted in a ground fall, with JLC landing on his back and fracturing three ribs. He was wearing a helmet. Local rescue squads were staged in the park for a scheduled trail race and were able to quickly assess his injuries and evacuate him. (Source: Hanging Rock State Park rangers.)

ANALYSIS

The opening moves of this route are strenuous but can be protected well. Placing additional gear while close to the ground or above ledges is advisable. By wearing a helmet, the climber likely prevented a more serious injury. (Source: Aram Attarian.)

Images

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