



## AAC Publications

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### Rappel Error

Utah, Wasatch Range, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Storm Mountain

**On July 7, a male climber in his 20s fell to the ground while rappelling from a multi-pitch sport route called Addis Ababa (two pitches, 5.7).** The climber and two partners had finished the route, and two of the three climbers had completed the rappels when they saw the third fall from near the first-pitch anchors to the ground.

The patient had open fractures in both legs and a head injury, among other injuries. Rescuers lowered him down low-angle terrain for about 100 feet, and then he was carried to Life Flight for a trip to a local hospital. (Source: Salt Lake County Search and Rescue.)

### ANALYSIS

It's not clear what caused the fall, but rescuers believe the climber loaded his ATC-style rappel device incorrectly. Weight-testing the rappel setup before unclipping from the anchor could have prevented a fall resulting in many serious injuries. (Source: The Editors)

**Images**

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