



## AAC Publications

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### Fall on Ice

Montana, Hyalite Canyon

David Baumann prior to falling off The Fat One (WI3) in Hyalite Canyon. "I am really shocked that my lower tool came out. This picture shows my position before I fell while placing a screw." In general, it is good to place both tools at almost full arm extension, then place a screw at hip height using the dominant hand while hanging straight-armed from the other tool. Pulling outward on the low left tool while pushing and twisting the screw might have caused the otherwise solid pick placement to pop.

Photo: David Baumann Collection

**Two friends and I, David Baumann (32), were climbing in Hyalite Canyon over a weekend. I followed some WI3/4 climbs and led a WI3 without incident.**

On Sunday, February 5, I decided to lead The Fat One (WI3) on the Unnamed Wall since the ice looked plastic on the route. I chose the rightmost line, because it had plenty of rests and was not as steep. My intention was to put up a top-rope and climb the steeper lines on the left.

I started climbing and everything was going well. I found a good rest for my feet and had a solid tool placement just above at hip height with my left and was placing my first screw at about hip height with my right. Either a foot slipped or a tool popped—I fell with both ice tools and the ice screw. I snagged my right crampon on some low-angle ice and felt a sharp pain before landing in deep powder snow.

I ended up with a large blood blister on my left big toe and a cleanly fractured talus bone in my right foot, with several chips from my navicular bone. Several locals assisted in getting me off of the mountain. I was treated initially at an urgent-care facility in Bozeman and was then referred to a specialist. I am very lucky that nothing worse happened.

### ANALYSIS

The accident happened so fast, but I must have pulled up on my left tool when I slipped, and in the end both of them popped. This was my third season ice climbing, and I was beginning to lead. I thought this route was well within my ability if I climbed carefully and took my time. I think I need more practice placing ice screws and maintaining a stable stance. (Source: David Baumann.)

## Images



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