

Close Call on Epinephrine

Nevada, Red Rock National Conservation Area

On October 20, two climbers nearing the top of Epinephrine, the long 5.9 classic in Black Velvet Canyon, fell while simul-climbing. Three pieces of protection between the two pulled out during the fall, and the two tumbled toward the ground far below, stopping only when their rope snagged on a knob of sandstone. Simul-climbing is a useful technique for moving quickly on easy terrain, but it's essential that all placements of intermediate protection are bombproof. A short account of the dramatic rescue of these climbers can be found here.

Images

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