

Tying-in on climbing walls

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Issue

An experienced climber managed to get quite high on a climbing wall before realising she hadn't tied on and the rope slipped from her harness to the ground. An attempted rescue was unsuccessful and she fell to the floor and was seriously injured.

Outcome

Forgetting to tie in or absent-mindedly tying in to the wrong part of the harness etc does sometimes happen. The difficulty lies in having as fool proof a system as possible.

We suggest:

- A buddy system (similar to SCUBA diving) whereby as a matter of course you show your partner that you have tied on correctly and they show you that they are tied on correctly and that their belaying is set up correctly.