



Incident Report | ITCC Albuquerque, NM • August 2023

On Saturday 12th August in the late afternoon an incident occurred during the Head-to-Head ascent event. An onsite investigation was immediately conducted. The Event Head judge and several event technicians were interviewed to establish what had happened. The incident involved a climber falling a short distance and being arrested in the preinstalled backup line by the preinstalled ASAP.

ACTION CAUSING THE INCIDENT

It was established after discussion with the Event head judge and technicians, that there had been an error by one of the ground technicians. The Technician had released the lowering device on the primary ascending line without realizing that there was a climber still suspended from it. This caused the climber to fall a short distance and be arrested by the preinstalled backup system. (The Absorbica attached to the ASAP did not deploy.)

REASON

The ground technician was a highly experienced individual with a good working knowledge of the equipment and task at hand. Prior to the incident the technician had been carrying out this same task for one and a half days during the preliminary events. It was concluded that the reason for the incident was due to the technician being mentally exhausted from repeating this same task in temperatures exceeding 40 degrees for an extended period.

REMEDIAL ACTION

1. Physical and mental exhaustion of volunteers needs to be addressed.
 - a. Number of climbers and local climate need to be considered.
 - b. Strategic planning Committee & ISA
2. Changes to Ascent event setup and rules
 - a. Rules Committee
3. Two step communication plans for lowering of systems needs to be enforced.
 - a. Rules Committee and ITCC Ops committee