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Anatomy of an Accident

presented by

Phil Powers

Executive Director, American Alpine Club

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Anatomy of an Accident

- Introduction
- What happened?
- Contributing factors
- Takeaways re: safety systems
- Takeaways re: staff outings
- Takeaways re: the overall institution

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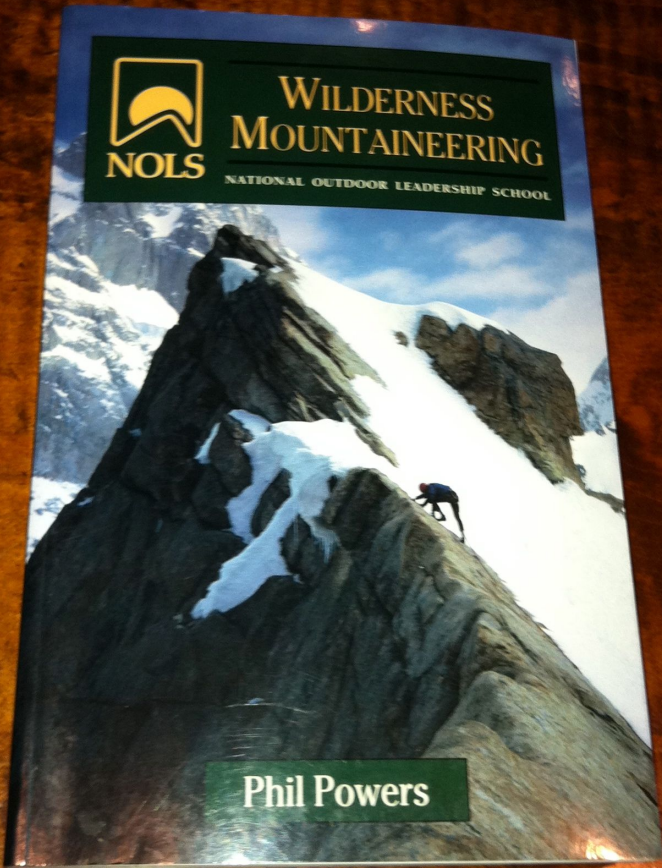
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With this kind of experience, what could happen at a little sport crag?

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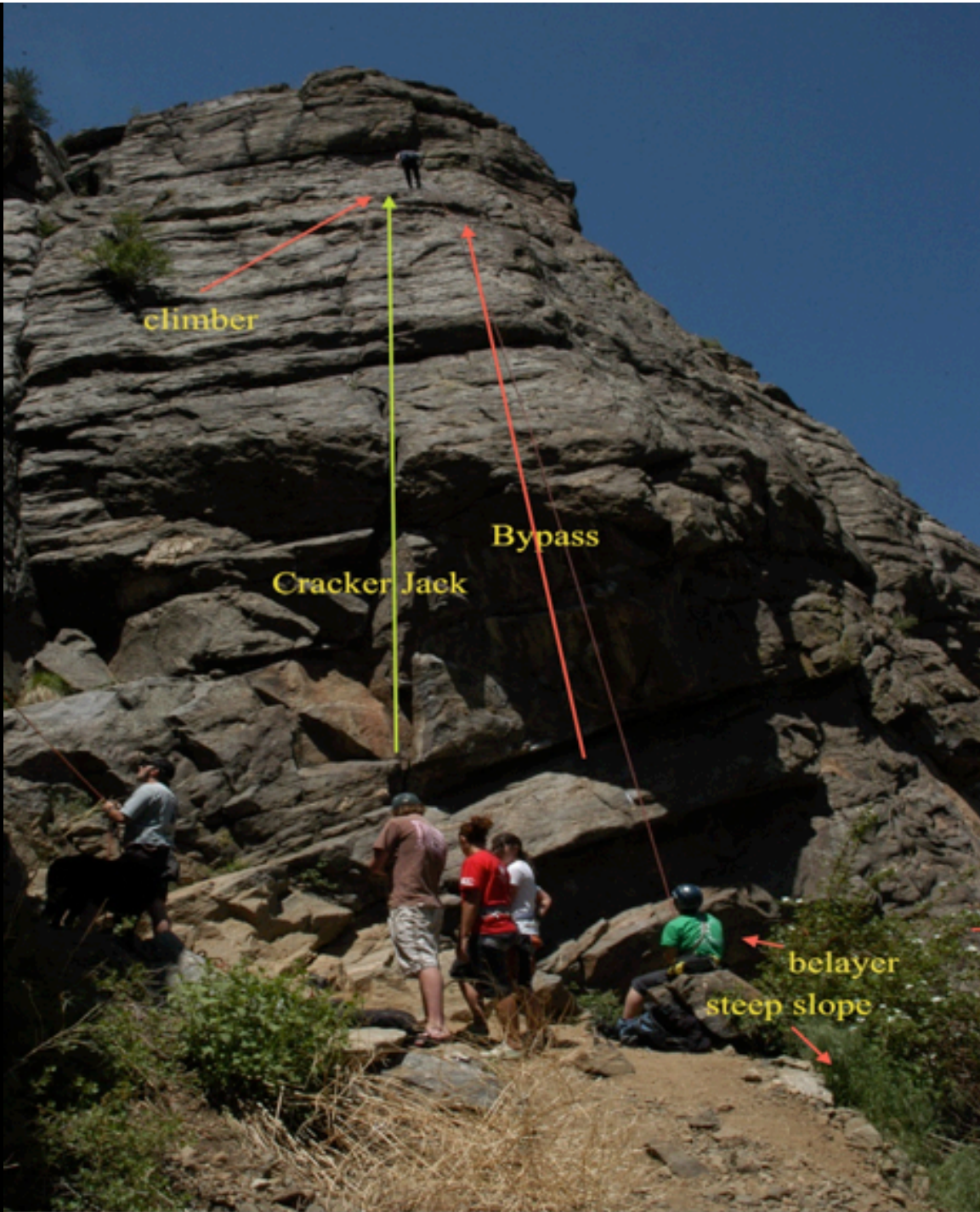
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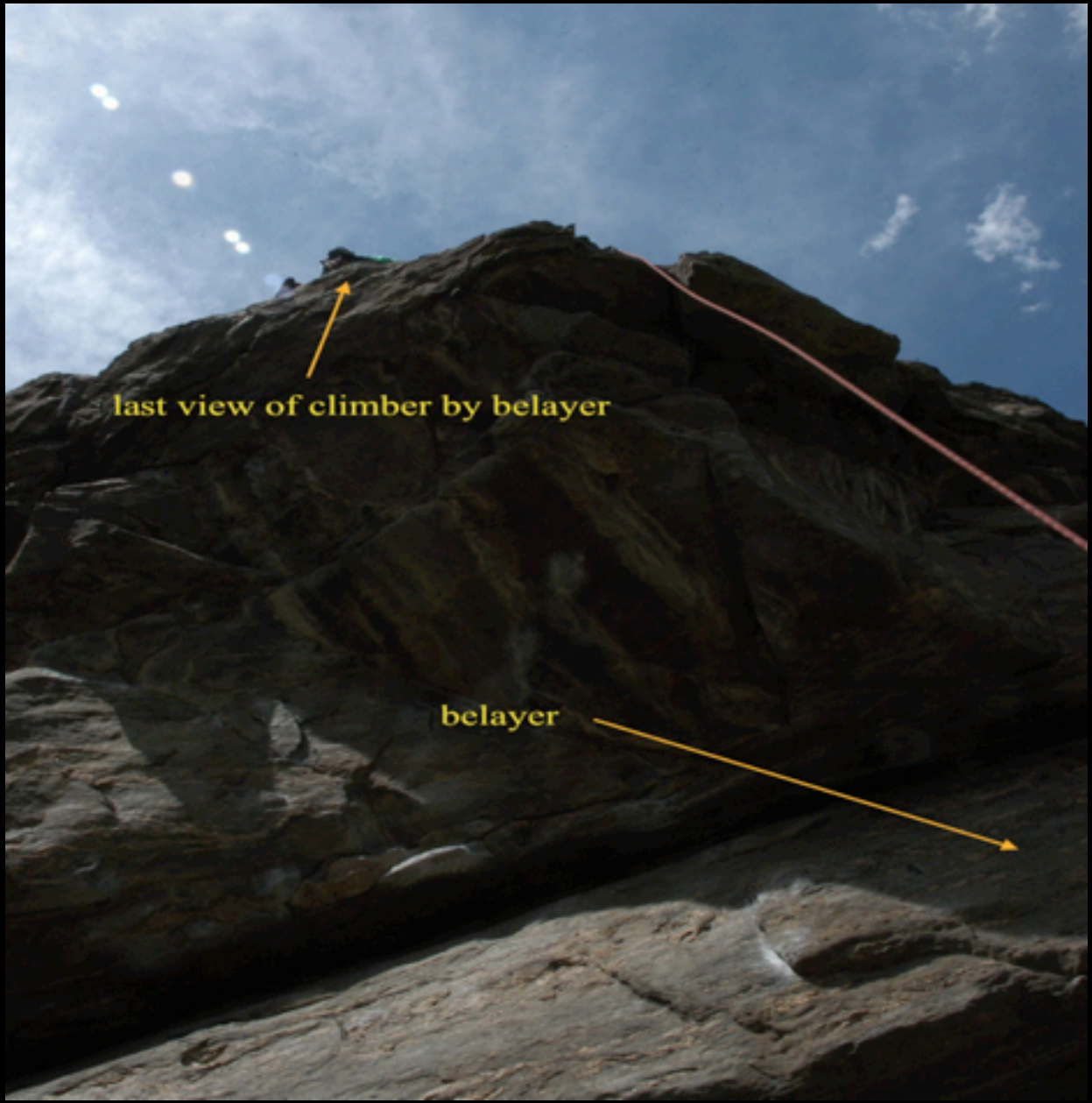


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last view of climber by belayer

belayer

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Top Anchor > climber

Bolt 8 >

Bolt 7 >

Bolt 6 >

Bolt 5 >

Bolt 4 >

Bolt 3 >

Bolt 2 >

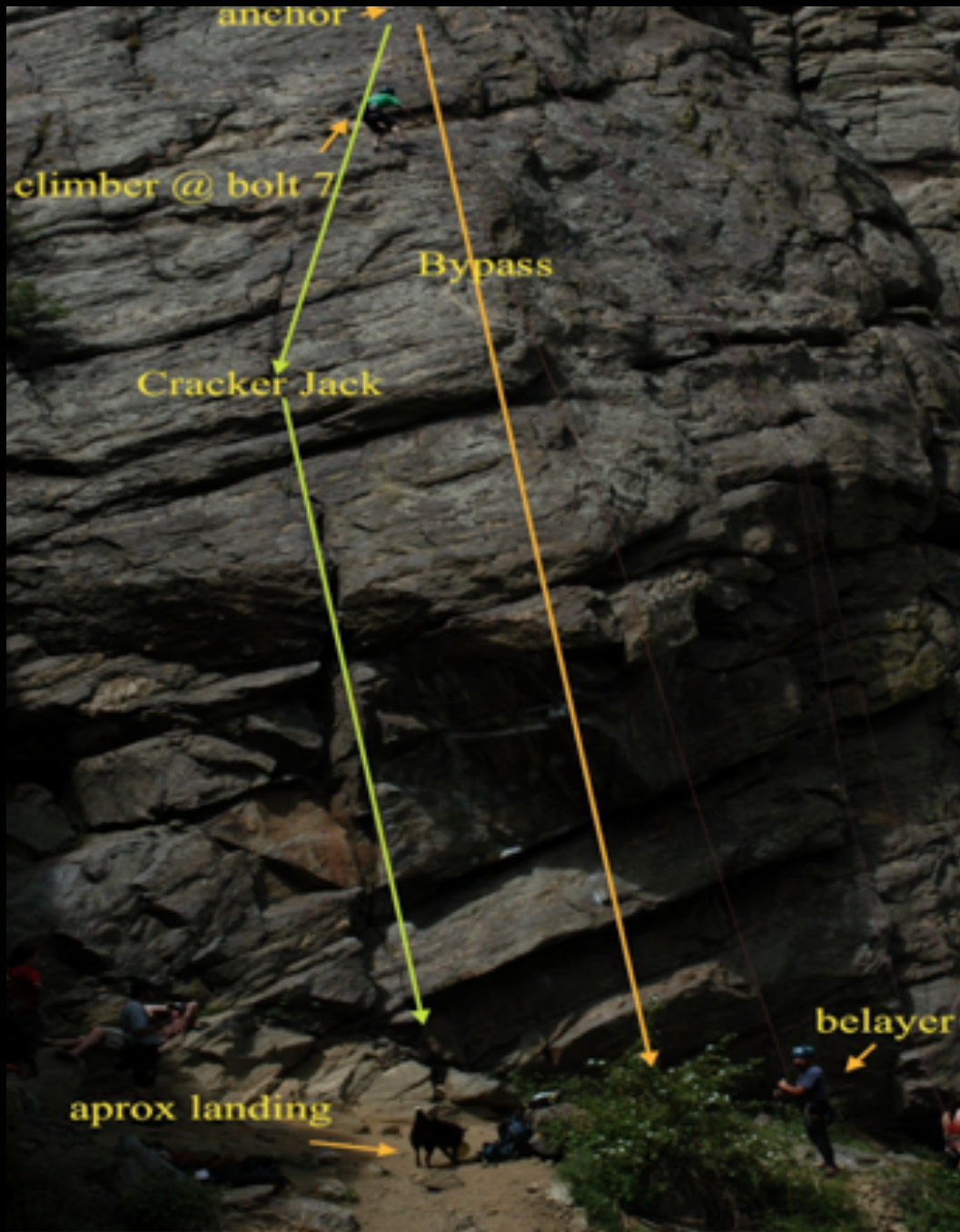
Bolt 1 >

belayer

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Contributing Factors

- Goal clarity/distraction
- Leadership/formal supervision
- Discrepancy in skill and experience
- Complacency
- Noise
- Sightline

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Safety Systems

- Choosing a partner
- (pre) Communication
 - Alternate signals?
- Four point check
 - Harness, knot, belay, **preplan**
- Belayer position

Staff Outing

- Create clear leadership structure
- Create clear safety expectations
- Separate talk time from climb time
- Make no skill or experience assumptions
- Adopt industry standard practices

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Helmets

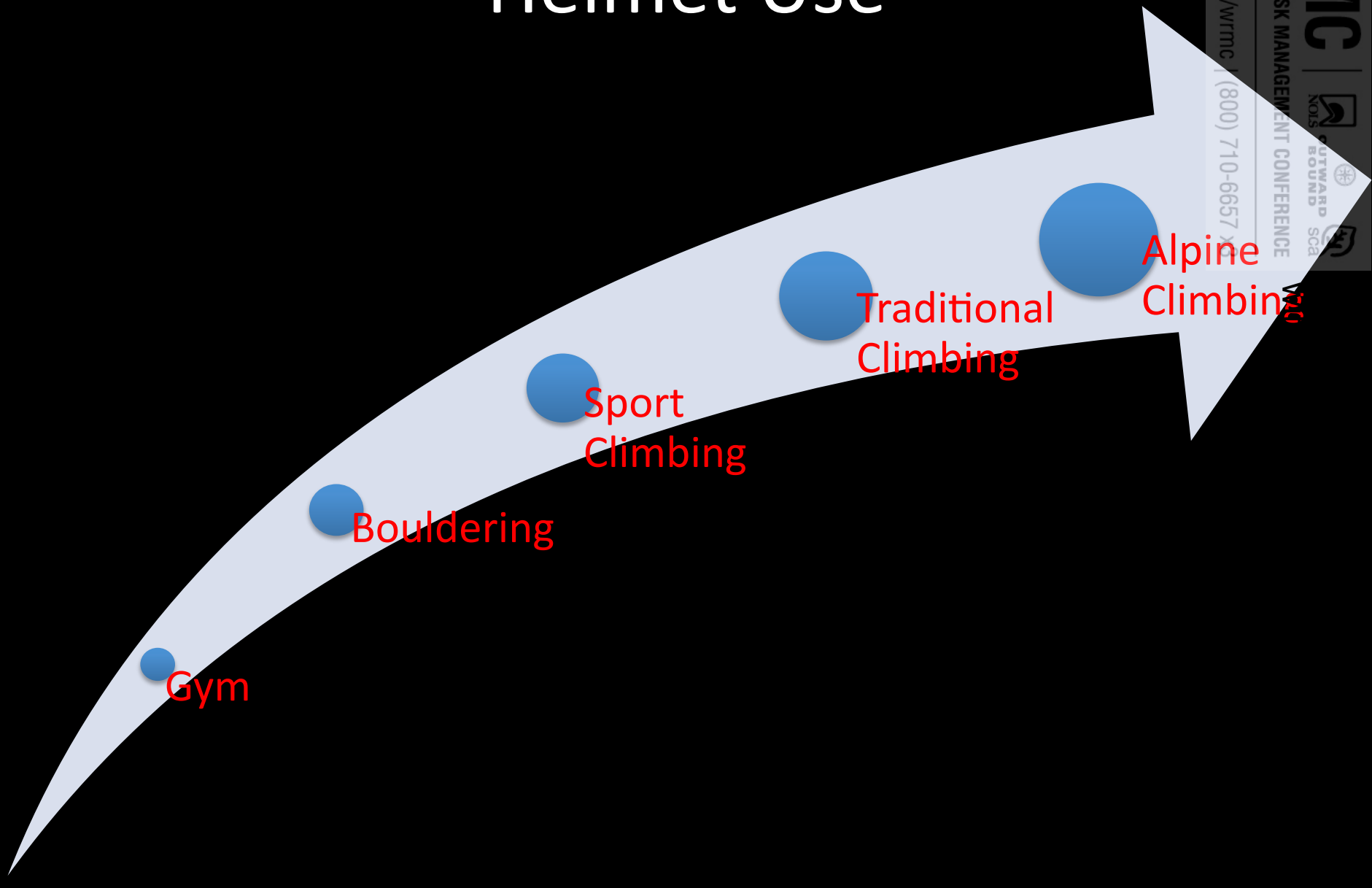


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Helmet Use



For the Institution

- Adopt industry standards
- Inculcate a risk management mentality
- Institute a risk management process
 - Event plan
 - Briefing
- Emergency Response Plan
 - Annual drill
- Third party review

And

- Own what happens, learn, grow
- Share what happened, teach

Take care of the people

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Maintain the Belay

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