



Struck by LIGHTNING!



by Stephen Person

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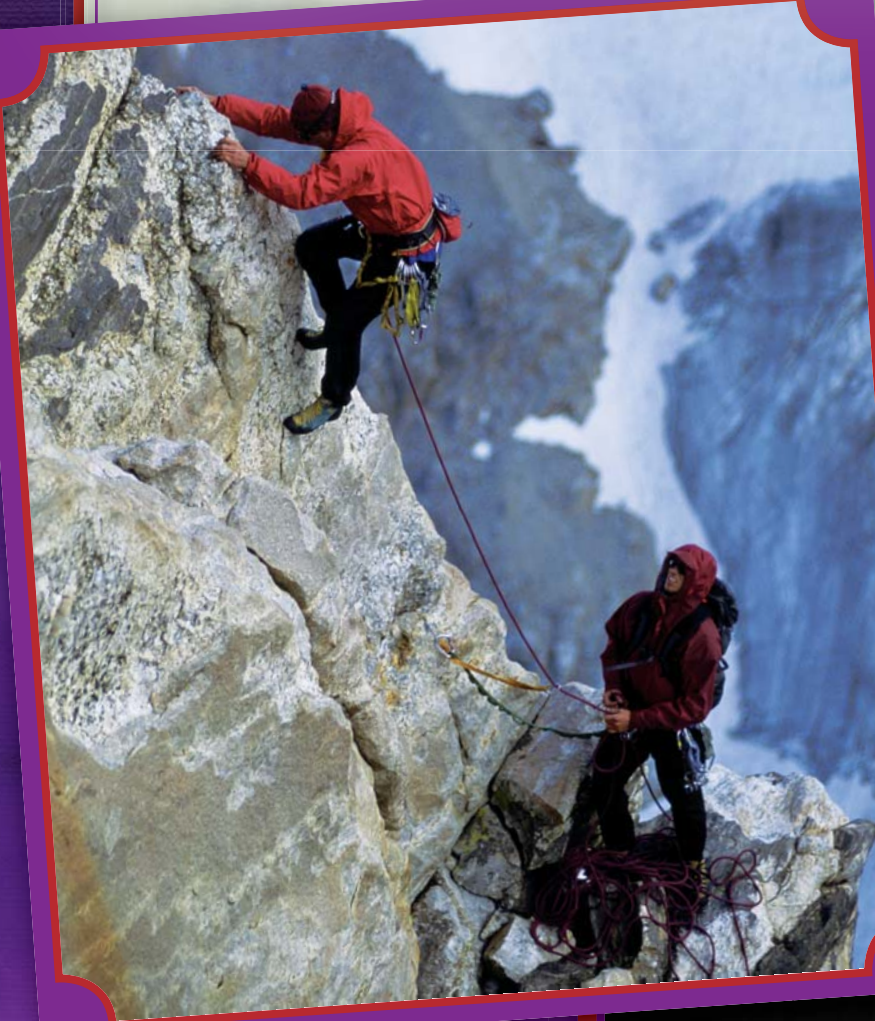
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A Mountaintop Strike

It was late afternoon on July 26, 2003. Rod Liberal and his friends were nearing the top of Grand Teton Mountain in Wyoming. This was Rod's first time climbing the mountain, and he was excited to reach its summit.



Climbers near the 13,770-foot (4,197-m) peak of Grand Teton Mountain.

As Rod clung to the side of a cliff, he saw dark clouds rolling toward him. Suddenly, he heard a buzzing sound. He felt the hair on his arms stand up. Then there was a burst of light as a bolt of lightning struck his chest and blew him off the mountain. Luckily, he was attached to the cliff by a rope. He swung in the air, thousands of feet above the ground.

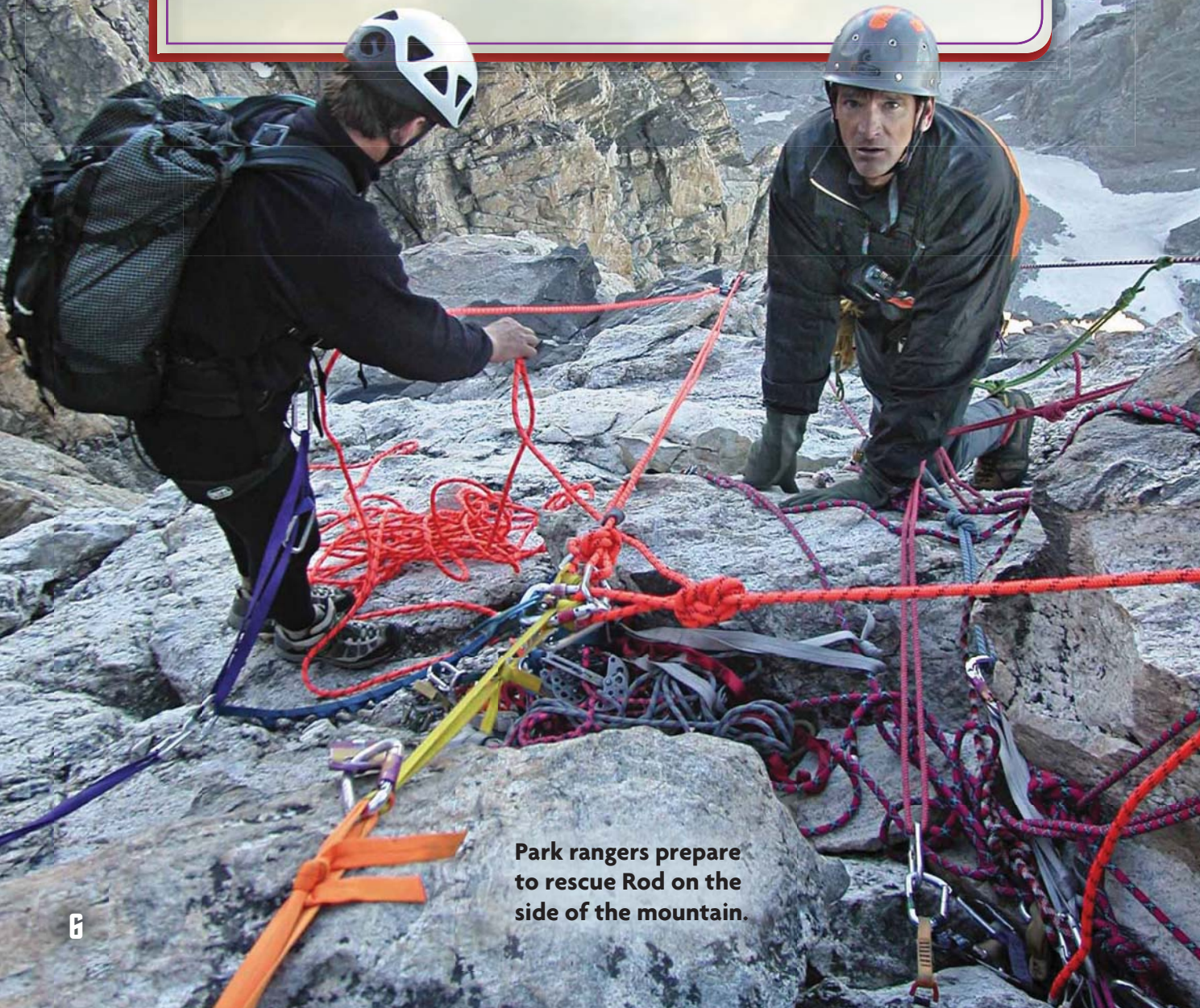
**Lightning strikes in Grand
Teton National Park, Wyoming**



About 100 bolts of lightning strike Earth's surface every second.

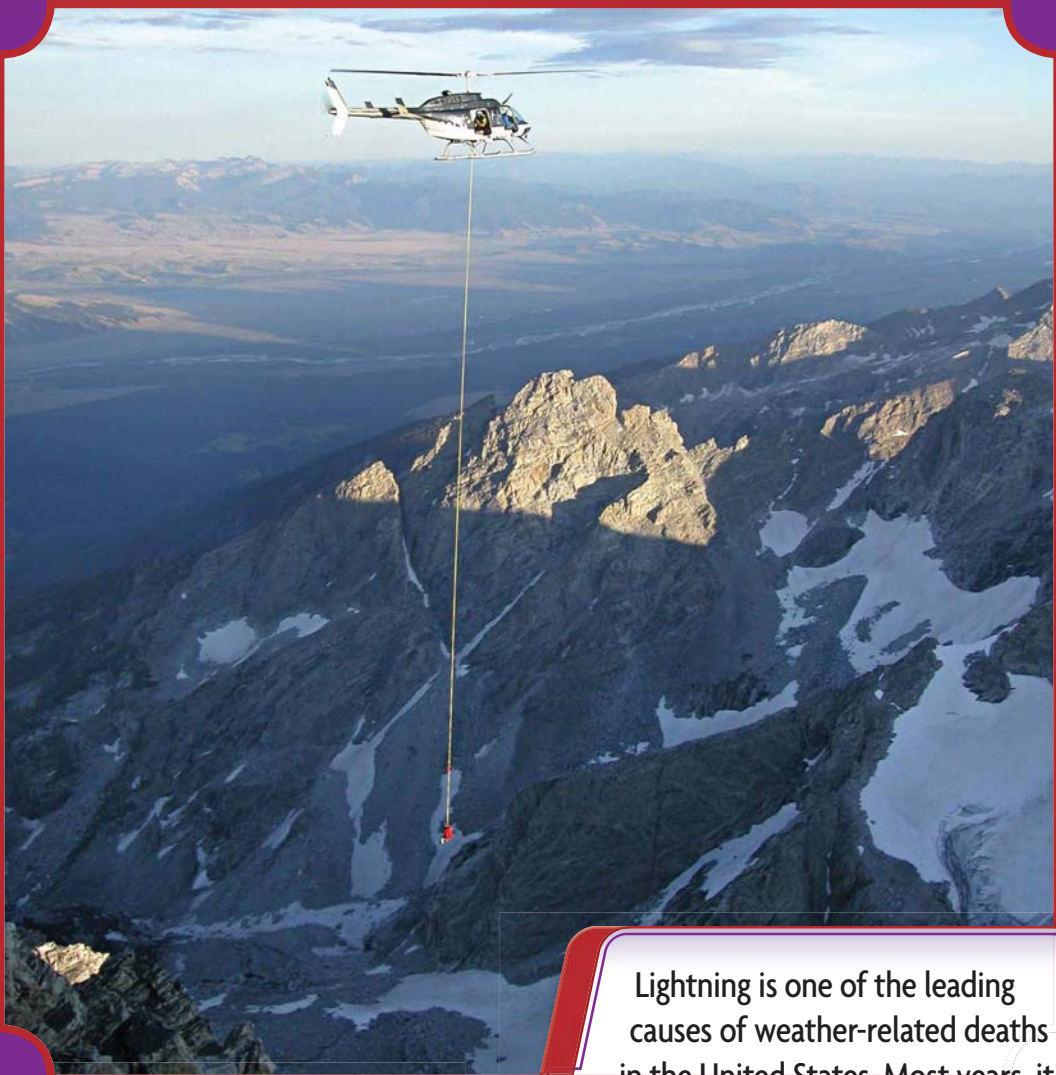
Rescue in the Sky

The lightning strike paralyzed Rod's left arm and right leg. He was in terrible pain, and thought his back might be broken. He tried to scream, but could not make a sound. "Hold on, buddy!" one of Rod's friends called down from the mountain above. "Just keep breathing." Rod's friends used a cell phone to call park rangers for help.



Park rangers prepare to rescue Rod on the side of the mountain.

As the sun began to set, Rod heard a helicopter. Park rangers had come to rescue him. They secured Rod to a basket attached to the helicopter and flew him to a hospital. “We didn’t think he would survive the night,” one of the rangers said. “He was really hurt. He took the full blast of the lightning.”



A helicopter picked Rod up and flew him to a hospital.

Lightning is one of the leading causes of weather-related deaths in the United States. Most years, it kills more people than hurricanes or snowstorms.

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About the Author

Stephen Person has written many children's books about the environment, nature, and history. He lives with his family in Brooklyn, New York.

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Rod Liberal was nearing the top of Grand Teton Mountain in Wyoming. It was his first time climbing this mountain, and he was excited to reach its summit. Suddenly, Rod saw dark clouds rolling toward him. He heard a buzzing sound and felt the hair on his arms stand straight up. Then there was a burst of light as a bolt of lightning struck his chest and blew him off the mountain. Luckily, he was attached by a rope to a cliff. He swung in the air, thousands of feet above the ground.

Look inside to find out more about Rod and other survivors of lightning strikes who narrowly escaped death. You'll also discover what causes lightning, where it strikes, and—most important—how to stay safe when it is about to come your way.

Blitzed by a Blizzard!
Devastated by a Volcano!
Erased by a Tornado!
Hammered by a Heat Wave!

Leveled by an Earthquake!
Mangled by a Hurricane!
Slammed by a Tsunami!
Struck by Lightning!

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