

Gruveulykken på Hadeland

Mining accident at Hadeland

An accident occurred last summer at the deserted zinc mine at Nysether in Grua, not far away from Oslo. One person fell from a rope the remaining 6 to 7 metres of a shaft that was 35 metres deep. It is understood that the shaft is not far from the entrance. According to the newspapers this person, who landed in a block scree, broke amongst other things one leg.

NGF's executive committee find it necessary to criticise the lack of safety precautions taken by the youths concerned. According to the police in Lunner they climbed down a thick nylon rope without using abseiling equipment. They had just made knots in the rope at two metre intervals. The police confirm that the shaft is vertical with an overhang at the top resulting in a free climb. Think of descending the 25 m fall at Kristihola in that way ! Amongst other things several of the young people lacked a helmet. Most of them lacked experience as well. Actually, no experienced cavers would conduct themselves in this way, by definition.

The rescue operation seems to have undertaken competently, probably mostly thanks to Dan Halvorsen from Langfjella mountain group, who is both nurse and mountain climber (an excellent combination).