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Ulykken i Stormdalshølet

An accident in Stormdals cave, Beiarn, Nordland County.

On Sunday 3. October 1999 a caver fell while climbing in Stormdals cave and was injured such that she was immobile. The article is a report of the accident and the subsequent rescue. The accident occurred ca. 150 m inside the cave along an easily accessible river passage. The injured caver was given morphine and carried out of the cave 2 hours and 20 minutes after her fall. Access to the cave is more difficult and the stretcher had to be independently secured for the 500 m transport to a rescue helicopter. A review of the rescue revealed that help had been rapidly obtained but also the somewhat chaotic manner in which news of the accident was transmitted to the rescue agencies which resulted in the main rescue team receiving 4 significantly differing versions of the accident before they arrived on the scene.