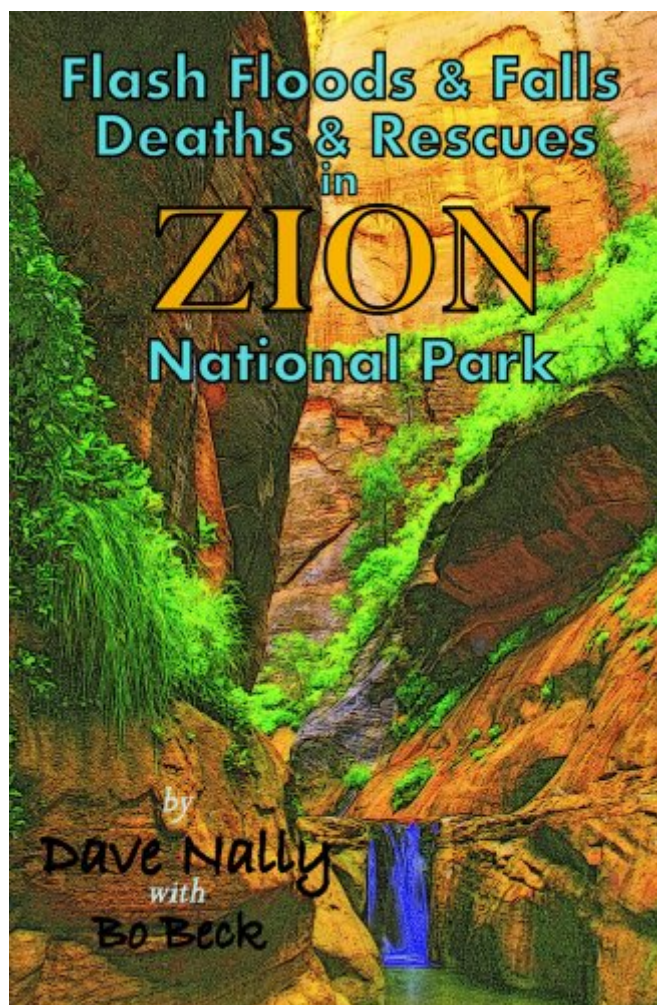


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Flash Floods & Falls: Deaths & Rescues In Zion National Park



Synopsis

Zion National Park is home to majestic and wondrous canyons, cliffs, crags, mesas, rivers, and slot canyons. World travelers remain in awe as they drive, walk, hike, and climb into such a unique place that is filled with vibrant, sacred, and mystical energy. Gradually becoming transfixed, many push themselves further into the wilds, oblivious to weather and dangers, deeper into the backcountry, suddenly finding themselves in extreme predicaments. These are the moments when accidents often occur. . .and these once beautiful, holy places become menacing and dangerous--sometimes leading to agonizing and horrific accidents--and even death! Since the early 1900s there have been 73 accidental deaths that have taken place inside Zion's park boundaries. Hundreds of rescues of outdoor enthusiasts have ensued as well. This book covers all of those deaths, and many of the gripping rescues that have occurred during the past century. Bo Beck, a senior Zion Search and Rescue member for over 17 years, also shares his personal accounts. You will marvel at the riveting stories, and take away a better understanding of how to be smarter and better prepared for your next great adventure!

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Customer Reviews

This book is a compendium of all the ways people have died in Zion National Park over the years. The book does what it sets out to do in listing seemingly each of the fatalities and telling brief vignettes - to the extent much information is known. Successful rescues are also recounted. One of the strengths of the book is that it is co-authored by a man on the Zion Search and Rescue team who has witnessed some of the fatalities and been involved in many rescue efforts. His on-the-ground experience lends immediacy to many of the stories (he is also the manager of "The Desert Rat" an excellent outdoor store in St. George's my son and I shopped at during this summers trip to Utah). For those who love the outdoors, or who have travelled to Zion, this will be interesting. There are good lessons here, particularly on what not to do and risks that should be avoided. As the book recounts, most of the accident/fatality victims are young men. This book would be a timely (and hopefully instructive) read for any young man (under 35) who is hiking in the wild or around heights, canyoneering or repelling. Although Angels Landing has the most number of fatalities of any single location in Zion, it is by no means the site of most fatalities. It appears that canyoneering - due perhaps to the explosion in interest in the activity in recent decades - might be the most dangerous activity that can be undertaken in the park by the impetuous adventurer. Really though, any lack of adherence to guidelines/good practices and immaturity can kill - even in a place as wondrous as Zion National Park.

As another reviewer noted, this book is hard to put down. That's especially true if you're familiar with the area, interested in the activities described, or just enjoy great stories. Nally is a local author who seems to have taken great pains to research this extremely interesting book. It is more than just a laundry list of accidents in Zion National Park. Each incident is engagingly recounted with sensitivity to the people involved and nested within appropriate historical context. It's also a warning reminder to those of us who enjoy hiking, climbing, and canyoneering in one of earth's most exquisite galleries: Accidents will happen, but most are avoidable. Be careful, attentive, and for heaven's sake, listen to the rangers.

Certainly not a book for everybody. If you are interested in search and rescue, this book will hold you interest. A great book for periodic reading. From one story to the next you can put the book down and think about the details of each rescue or recovery, then pick up the book and read another story. Fantastic!

Great real life accounts. Exciting read especially having hiked through the Narrows. Amazing tales of the power of nature.

This is extremely well researched, written, and edited. The book tells of what can happen when man enters the wilds of our national parks. It brings home the fact that the beauty of nature can turn deadly in a moment. If you ever plan on visiting a park, you should read this.

For the most part, I enjoyed this book. Some of the stories were overdone. The author has done a lot of research and includes personal experience.

Very interesting and a welcome companion to the other books I have on death and rescues in National Parks.

Loved the book. Watch where you are hiking and be smart about where you are.

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