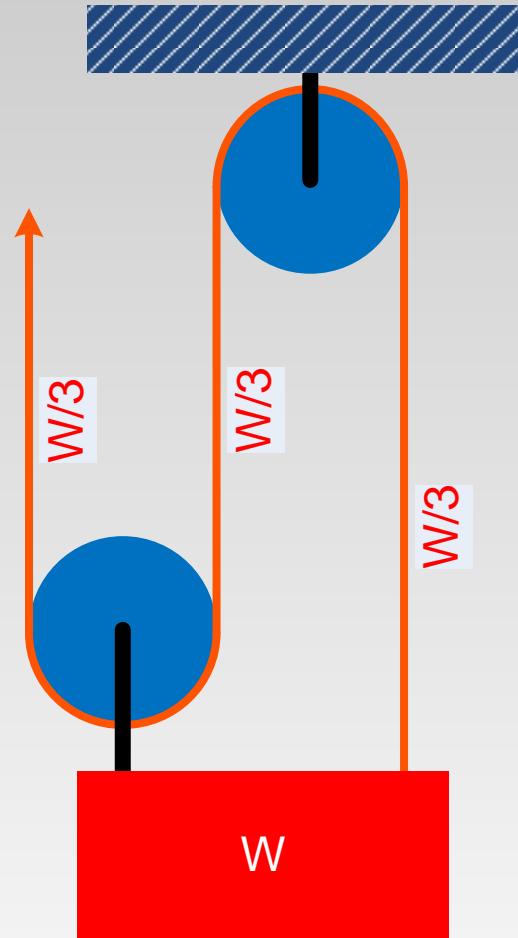


# An Illustration of Crevasse Rescue

- the one thousand steps you need to know to save your climbing partner

without breaking your back

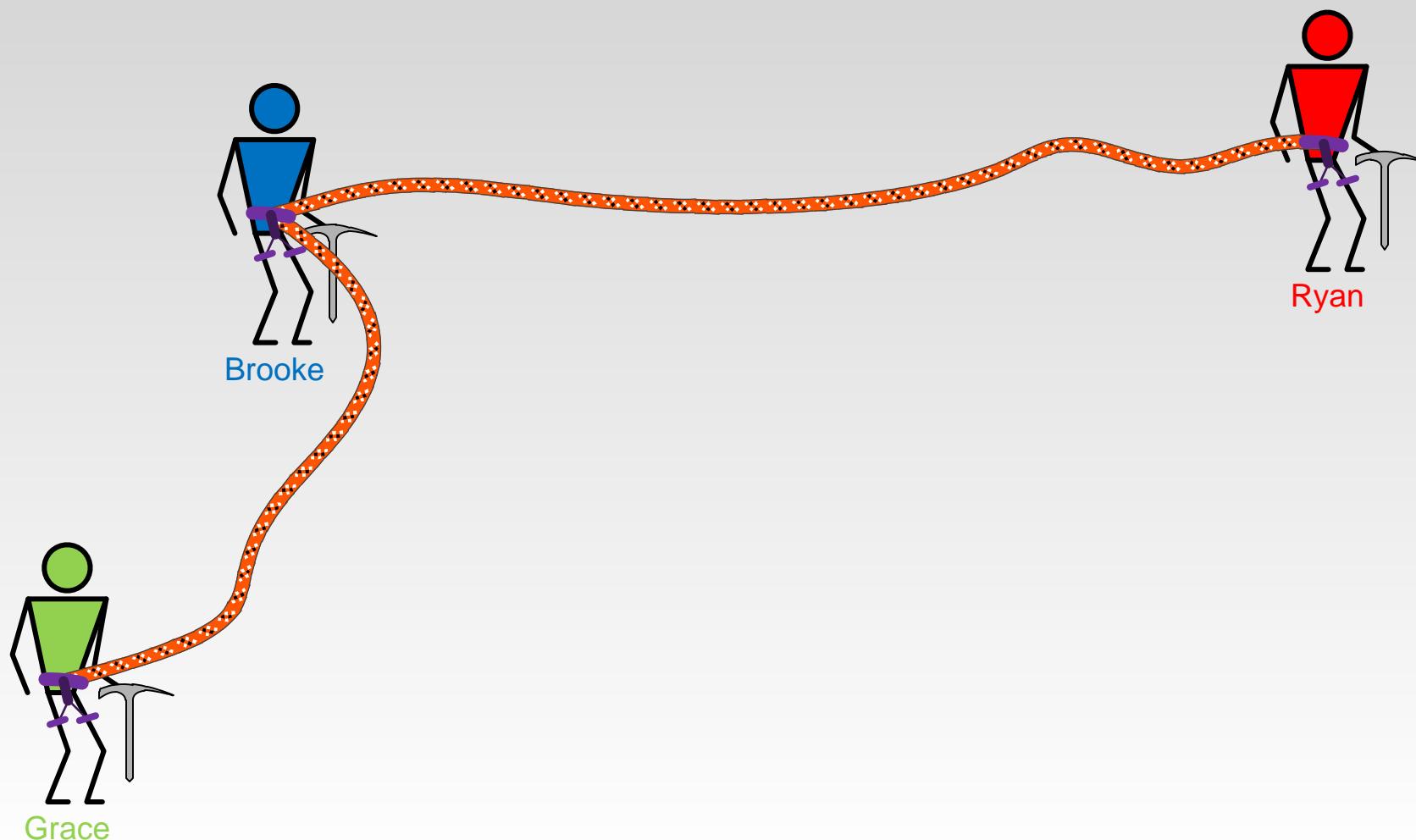


9<sup>th</sup> revision, the color  
coordinated version!

updated 1/4/2012, compliant  
with the Freedom of the Hills 8<sup>th</sup>  
edition

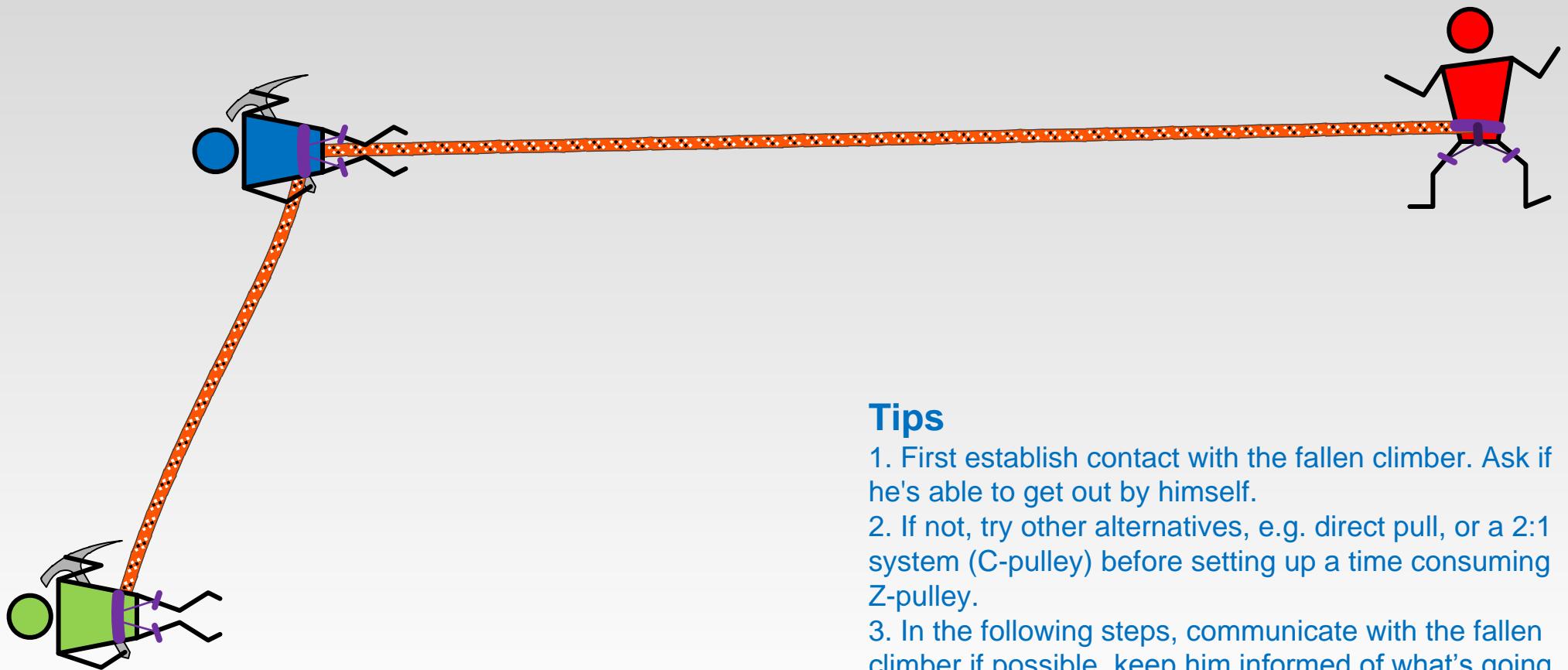


- A rope team travels on crevassed terrain.
- The leader (Ryan) probes the ground with his ice axe.
- The team keeps slack out of the rope to minimize the length of a fall.



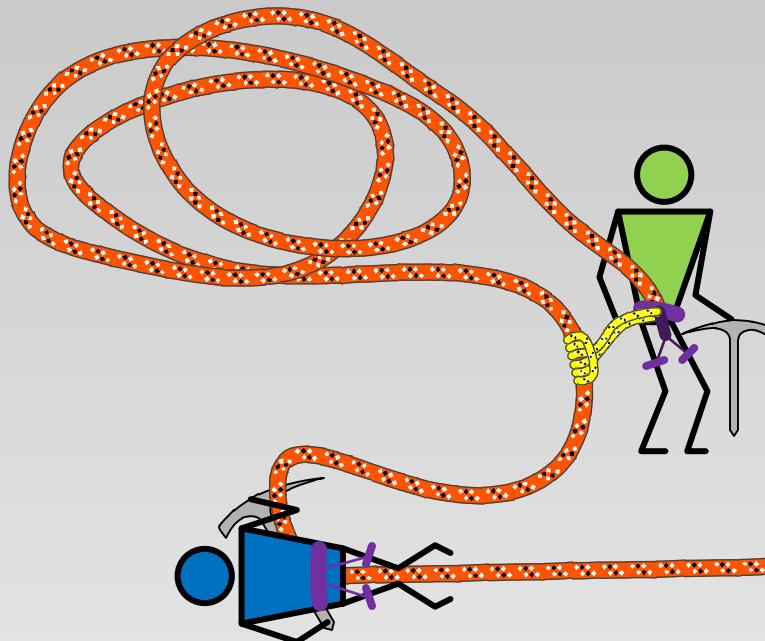


- Ryan falls into a crevasse, yelling “falling”.
- All rope team members yell “falling” and arrest.

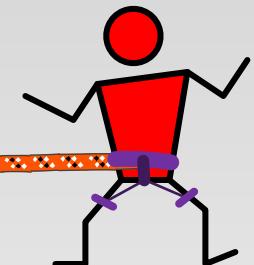


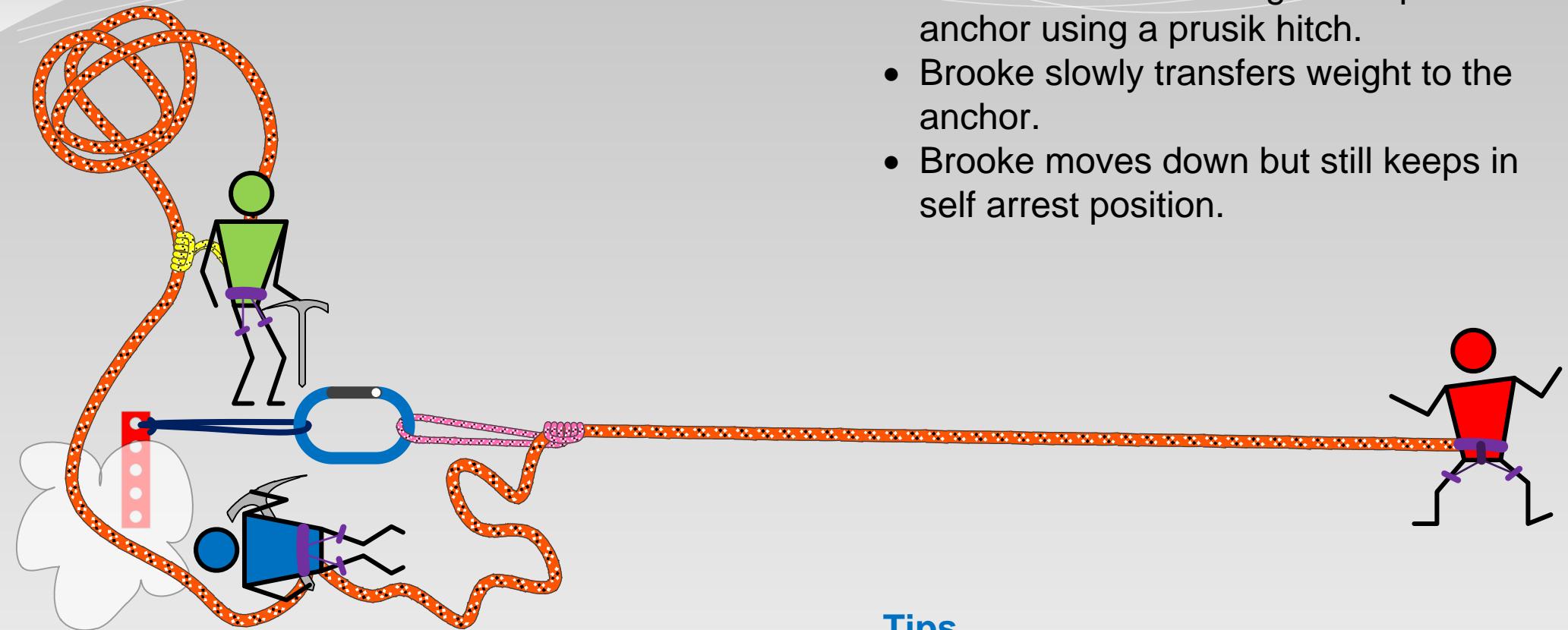
## Tips

1. First establish contact with the fallen climber. Ask if he's able to get out by himself.
2. If not, try other alternatives, e.g. direct pull, or a 2:1 system (C-pulley) before setting up a time consuming Z-pulley.
3. In the following steps, communicate with the fallen climber if possible, keep him informed of what's going on.



- Grace (end person) eases up as Brooke (middle person) holds the weight of Ryan, the fallen climber.
- Grace then comes down and passes Brooke using a prusik as her protection, probing with her ice axe.





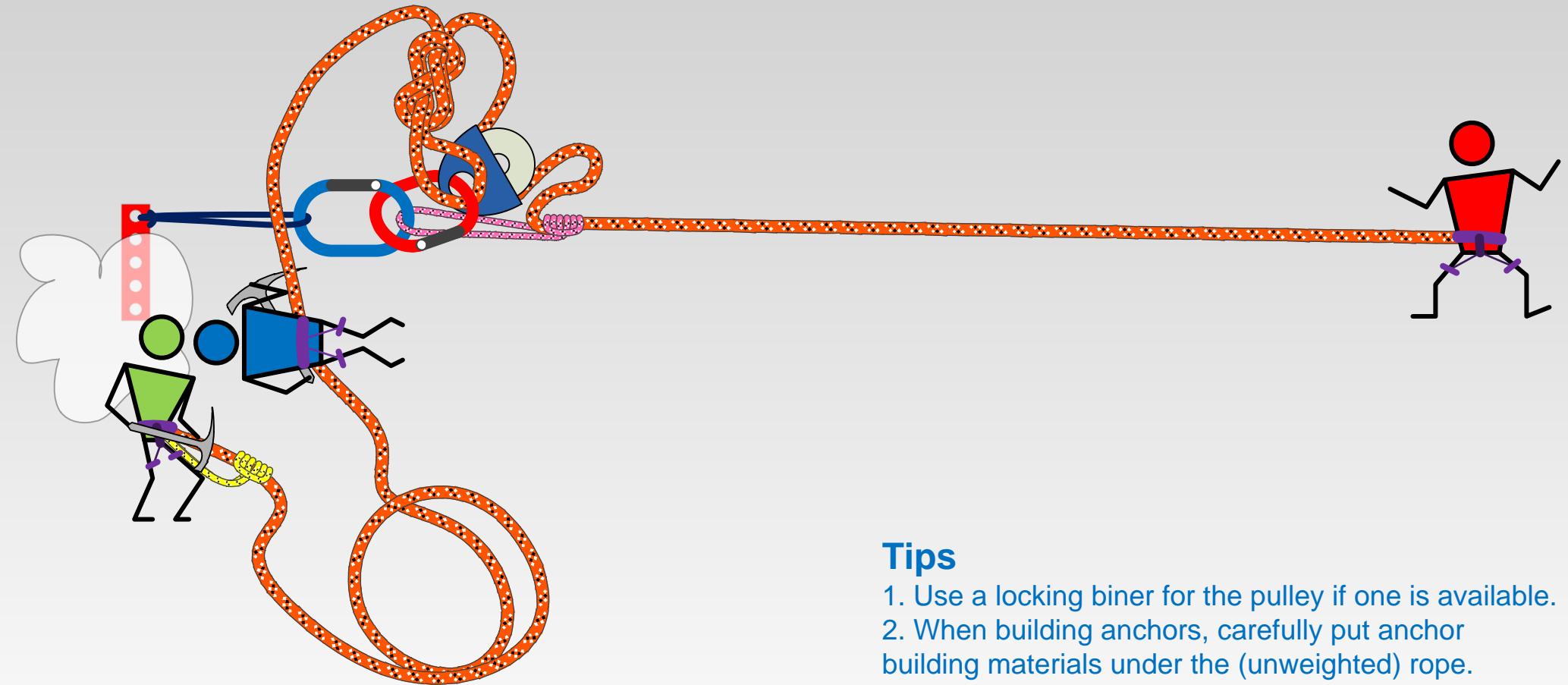
- Grace builds an initial anchor with a picket planted in the snow.
- She connects the weighted rope to the anchor using a prusik hitch.
- Brooke slowly transfers weight to the anchor.
- Brooke moves down but still keeps in self arrest position.

## Tips

1. If no picket is available, use an ice axe for the initial anchor.
2. A vertical placement is weak. Brooke should be ready to self arrest any time. She should also guard the initial anchor by standing on it in the following steps whenever possible.
3. When clipping the prusik to the anchor, keep the hinge of the biner gate (the white dot in the diagram) close to the prusik.
4. Push the prusik as far as possible before Brooke gets up to minimize the slip in the weight transfer.

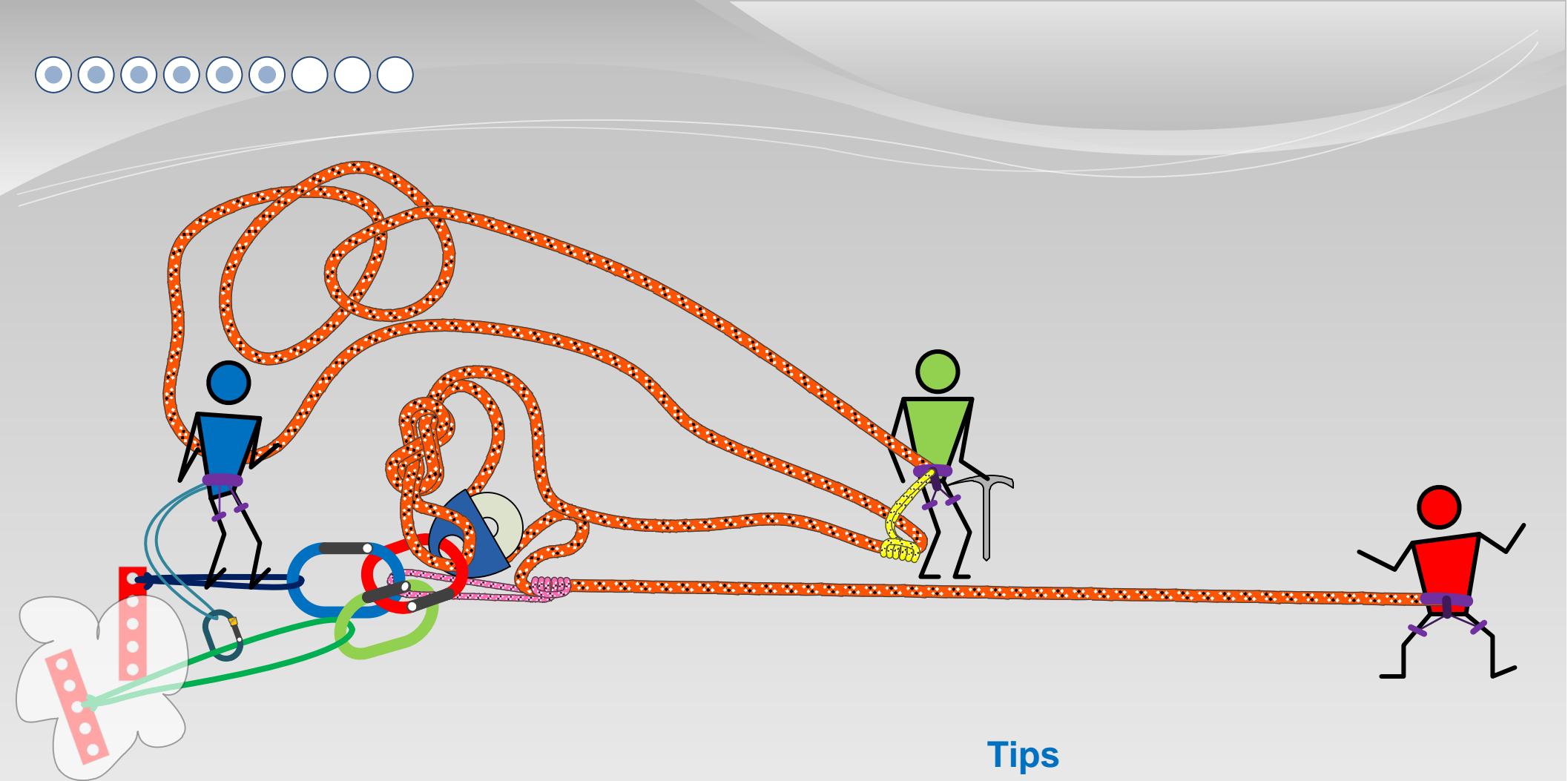


- Grace installs the first pulley with a backup knot (figure 8 on a bight).
- She starts building a second anchor (deadman).



## Tips

1. Use a locking biner for the pulley if one is available.
2. When building anchors, carefully put anchor building materials under the (unweighted) rope.
3. When clipping the pulley and the backup knot, keep the hinge of the biner gate away from the fallen climber.
4. Clip the pulley under the backup knot.



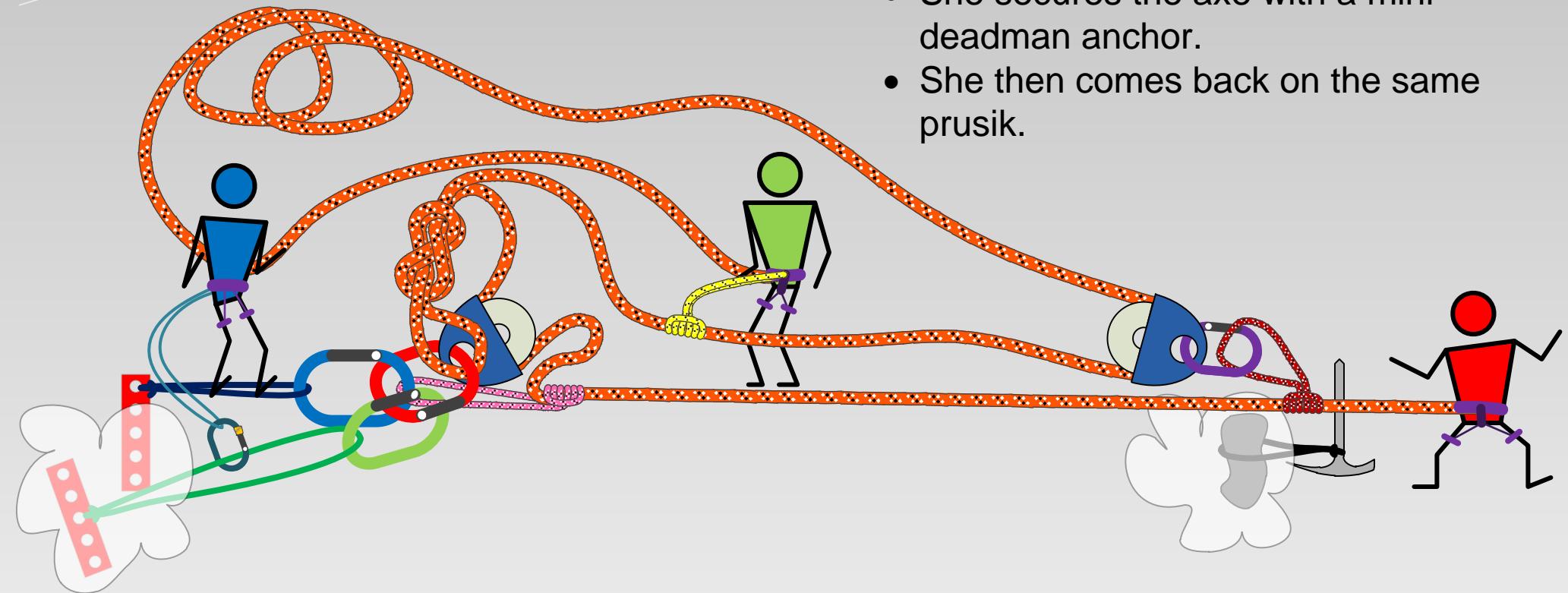
- Grace connects the second anchor to both the prusik holding the weight and the first pulley.
- Brooke eases up, clips her personal anchor into the second anchor, and unties from the rope.
- Grace goes down to the edge of the crevasse prusiking on the rope as protection.

## Tips

1. Keep the angle between two anchors small to better equalize them.
2. Keep the webbing on the second anchor as tight as possible. It's easier if you attach everything to the system, stretch it out, and measure backwards before digging.
3. When clipping the second anchor, keep the hinge of the biner gate close to the prusik.
4. Check if both anchors are connected to the system symmetrically.

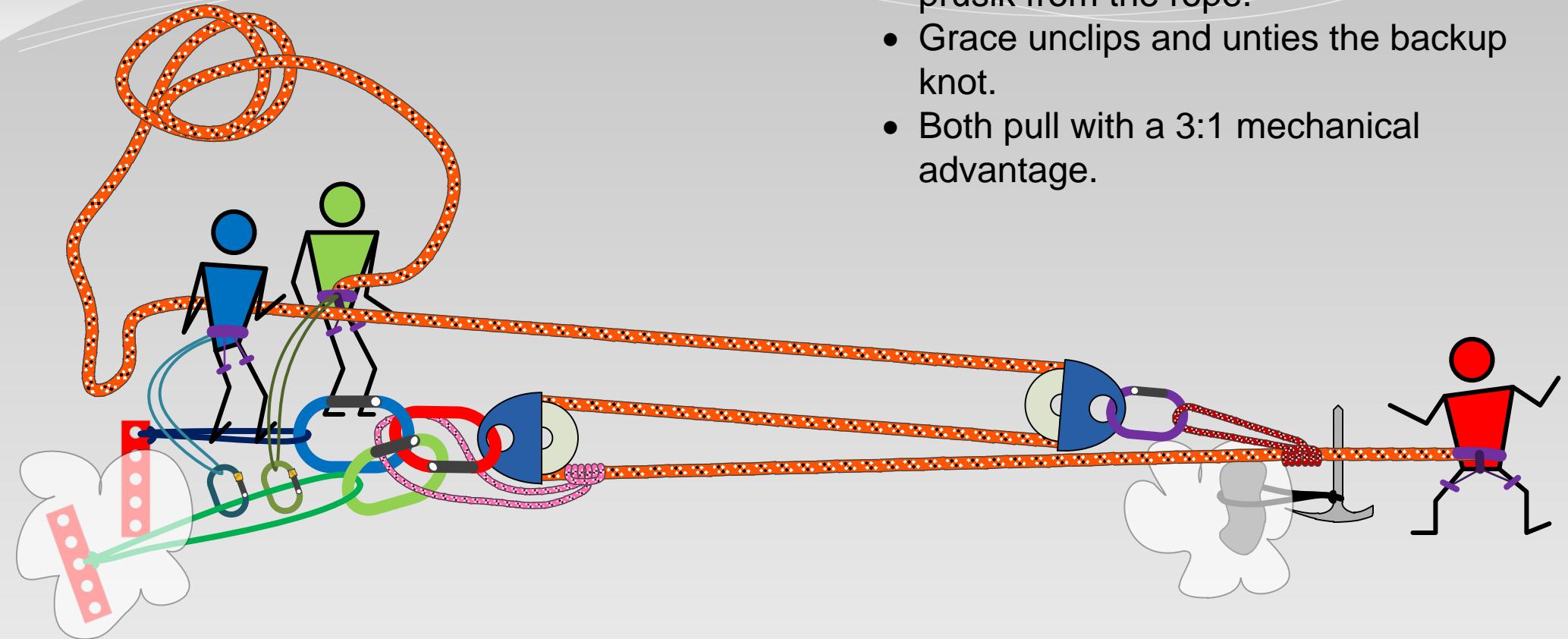


- Grace installs the second pulley.
- She uses the ice axe as a pad for the rope for an easier pull.
- She secures the axe with a mini deadman anchor.
- She then comes back on the same prusik.



## Tips

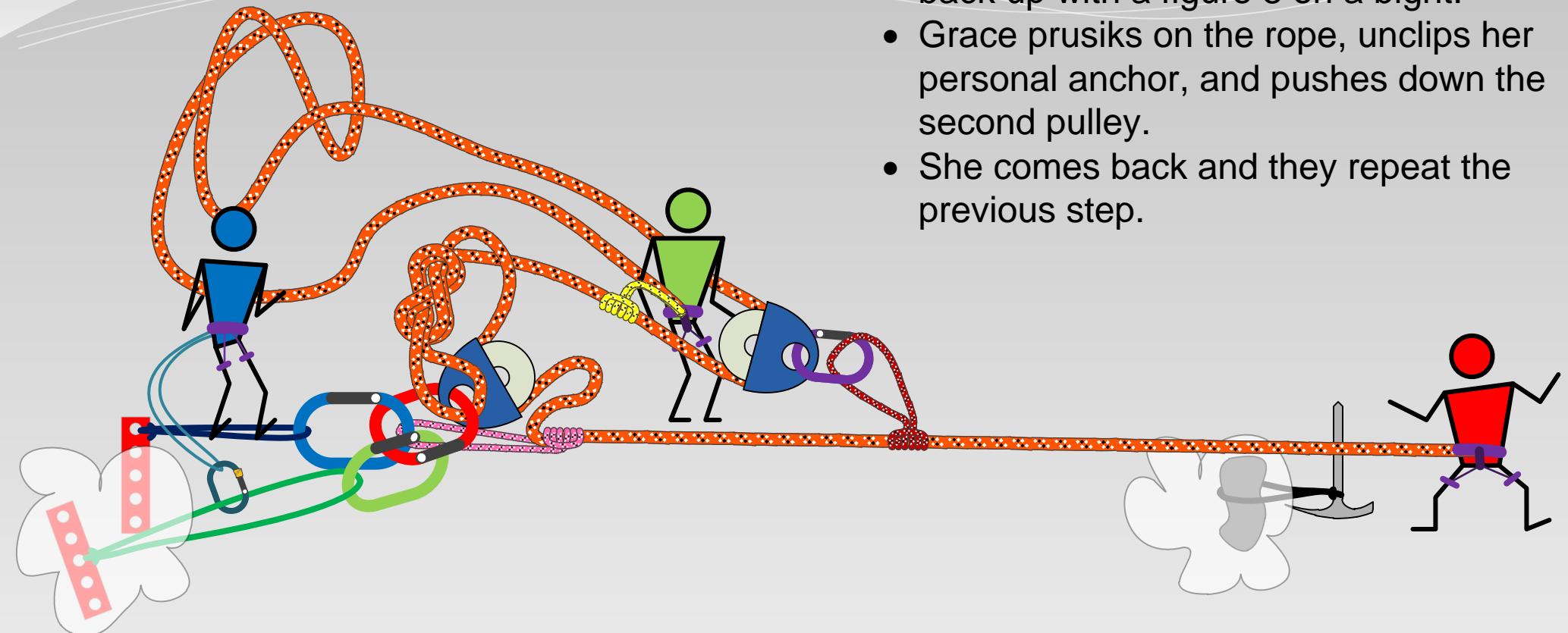
1. Brooke should double check Grace's work to ensure safety.
2. Brooke can help with rope management as Grace goes down and back.
3. Be creative with the padding mechanism. Use an ice axe, a ski pole, or a backpack.
4. Be creative with the mini deadman. Bury a stuff pack filled with snow, a rolled up sit pad, or even a water bottle.



- Grace clips her personal anchor into the second anchor and unties the prusik from the rope.
- Grace unclips and unties the backup knot.
- Both pull with a 3:1 mechanical advantage.

## Tips

1. When pulling, pay attention to the pulley tending the prusik.
2. When the fallen climber approaches the lip, pull gently.
3. You can tie a prusik on the rope and clip to your harness and pull by walking uphill.



- When the pulleys get close, they release the weight back to the prusik, back up with a figure 8 on a bight.
- Grace prusiks on the rope, unclips her personal anchor, and pushes down the second pulley.
- She comes back and they repeat the previous step.

### Tip

1. Push the pink hero loop as far as you can before releasing the weight on it so you don't waste the work and the fallen climber doesn't slip too much.
2. Reset when the pulleys are about 2 feet apart.