TABLE III

Numbers Refer to Persons Directly Involved

	1951-78 USA	1959-78 CAN.	1979 USA	1979 CAN.
Terrain				
Rock	1552	165	61	18
Snow	893	151	57	7
Ice	46	6	7	5
River	7	2	0	0
Unknown	10	2	0	1
Ascent or Descent				
Ascent	1224	166	65	14
Descent	1032	107	27	9
Unknown	176	12	9	6
Immediate Cause				
Fall or slip on rock	911	74	37	12
Slip on snow or ice	368	54	16	6
Falling rock or object	202	58	5	4
Avalanche	172	64	5	3
Exceed abilities	168	12	7	2
Exposure and/or exhaustion	121	6	5	0
Stranded	112	14	7	0
Failure of rappel	101	5	7	2
Loss of control—voluntary glissade	82	7	4	0
Illness—including pulmonary edema/frostbite	70	4	7	0
Failure of piton	62	9	0	1
Fall into crevasse	60	16	8	0
Lightning	34	3	1	0
Faulty use of crampons	21	2	1	0
Failure to follow route	70	4	5	0
Skiing	17	4	0	0
Failure of nut	10	1	1	0
Prussik/ascending device failure	3	1	0	0
Heat prostration	3	1	1	0
Other[1]	17	5	3	0
Unknown	28	3	0	0
Contributory Causes				
Climbing unroped	541	56	5	3
Exceeding abilities	540	70	12	0
Inadequate equipment	261	26	7	2
Climbing alone	170	16	5	1
Bad weather	142	7	13	1
Failure of piton	60	6	1	0
Darkness	65	5	3	0

	1951-78 USA	1959-78 CAN.	1979 USA	1979 CAN.
Party separated	54	6	0	0
Exposure and/or exhaustion	25	2	3	0
Old rope	8	1	0	0
No hard hat	23	2	3	1
Failure to test holds	9	1	1	0
Placed no protection	27	0	5	3
Failure of nut	18	1	2	0
Waist/harness failure	1	1	1	0
Other[1]	15	0	7	0
Age of Individuals				
Under 15	86	10	1	0
15-20	827	115	23	2
21-25	675	69	32	13
26-30	323	58	28	4
31-35	173	19	5	1
36-50	230	42	9	1
Over 50	10	2	6	1
Unknown	279	65	11	6
Affiliation with Climbing Groups				
Unaffiliated	830	53	30	0
Affiliated	817	150	22	6
Unknown	833	62	48	7
Estimate of Experience				
None or little	1044	94	12	0
Moderate	634	78	19	6
Experienced	460	91	47	15
Unknown	390	55	37	7
Month of Year				
January	90	3	4	0
February	101	17	1	3
March	136	21	7	0
April	135	6	8	1
May	235	17	8	1
June	388	40	14	3
July	465	101	25	9
August	428	89	11	8
September	247	10	12	5
October	130	13	8	0
November	85	1	1	0
December	18	3	1	0

[1] These include (a) cornice/snow bridge collapse (several cases), (b) inability to communicate with climbers because of language difference, (c) climber cut his own rope, (d) ran out of water, (e) rope cut on sharp edge (two cases), (f) three bouldering accidents, (g) fall while setting up top rope, and (h) knot improperly tied/failure.