gone about half a rope length before getting any protection in. About four meters above his protection, he fell, striking the rock head first. He ended up hanging upside down with a serious head injury and a compound lower leg fracture.

The younger brother was pinned to the belay position and couldn't move. His cries for help were confused by passers-by as a warning about a bear. People scattered in confusion and it was some time before word reached the Park Warden Office.

It was nearly two hours after the accident before the victim was reached. In the meantime, in spite of his injuries, he had managed to right himself and obtain some support on the steep slope. He was removed under difficult wind conditions by helicopter sling rescue. (Source: T. Davidson, Banff National Park)

Analysis

The victim was not wearing a hard hat and was using only a seat harness. (Source: T. Davidson, Banff National Park)

ROCK AND SNOW AVALANCHE

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Kitchener

Two climbers, both in their early twenties, were attempting the Grand Central Couloir on the north face of Mount Kitchener on August 22, 1982. Due to bad conditions, they decided to abort the climb and began to descend the fan below the upper bergschrund unroped.

Approximately 200 feet above the icefall, a rock and snow avalanche caught one man and knocked him over the icefall. A second, more violent, avalanche followed almost immediately and buried him in the bergschrund below the icefall. He was injured by the first slide and killed by the second. His partner dug out the body which was not deeply buried. (Source: D. Stinson and J. Steele, Jasper National Park)

Analysis

A considerable amount of snow had fallen in the area prior to the attempted climb and avalanche activity was observed throughout the area. A safer descent route would have been to stay closer to the side of the fan. (Source: D. Stinson and J. Steele, Jasper National Park)

FALL ON ROCK, NO HARD HAT

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Louis

On September 2, 1982, two climbers, both in their midtwenties, were ascending the standard route on Mount Louis. At the start of the final chimney pitches near the summit, the leader fell. The first protection point pulled out and she hit the rock after a 12-meter fall, ending up hanging upside down. She suffered a minor concussion, abrasions to the head, left arm and elbow and internal injuries (slight internal bleeding).

Other climbers on the route reported the accident and the party was rescued before dark by helicopter sling method. (Source: T. Auger and T. Davidson, Banff National Park)