

FALL ON SNOW, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE**British Columbia, Coast Mountains, Mount Cheam**

At 0730 on July 1, 1987, John Isaak (63), his son, and two others started to climb Mount Cheam (2000 meters). At least one member of the party had mountain climbing experience, but Isaak did not. At 1130, during the descent, near a point called The Gendarme, his feet slipped on a snow patch as he turned to make his way into a gully. He slid on the snow on his back for about 100 meters, then went over a cliff to his death. (Source: *The Vancouver Sun*, July 2, 1987)

Analysis

The climb is an easy one, with just one tricky spot that is readily avoided by a short but obvious detour. This is presumably where the accident occurred. (Source: Ian Kay, West Vancouver, B.C.)

FALL ON ROCK, OFF ROUTE, DARKNESS, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT**British Columbia, Coast Mountains, The Squaw**

On August 3, 1987, Carlo Zozykran (34), an experienced climber, and two companions left Squamish in the late afternoon to do Birds of Prey (approximately five pitches of 5.10) on the Squaw. At the top of the third pitch they decided to descend due to rapidly failing light and slowness of the party. After three rappels they reached the base of the climb and started down the trail.

By this time it was pitch black in the bush and descending was slow and tedious. Part way down, voice contact with Zozykran was lost. The others assumed that he was too far ahead to hear their calls. But when they arrived at the car after spending at least another hour picking their way through blackness and big boulders, Zozykran was not there. They then looked along the road, checked Zozykran's home, obtained flashlights, and went back up the trail, searching and calling. The RCMP were contacted, and searching continued all night without success.

Shortly after daybreak, he was found by an RCMP tracking dog, unconscious and suffering from severe injuries to hands and head. He had fallen ten meters or more. Recovery required several weeks in hospital. (Source: Dan Canton, Richmond, B.C.)

Analysis

One small flashlight could have prevented this accident. The trail is poorly defined and traverses an accumulation of enormous boulders, but can be traveled by daylight in about 15 minutes. When overtaken by darkness, the party had to choose between chancing the trail and waiting until morning. They took the trail. A hard hat would have greatly reduced his injuries, but climbers do not ordinarily wear them while walking along a trail. (Source: Dan Canton, Richmond, B.C., and Ian Kay, West Vancouver, B.C.)

FALL ON ROCK, UNROPE, WEATHER, NO HARD HAT**Ontario, Rattlesnake Point**

At 1850 on April 14, 1987, an experienced climber (34) was attempting to untie a top rope where it was anchored at the top of the escarpment on Rattlesnake Point (Climb #9). Apparently the anchor was difficult to remove. It was drizzling, and the ground where he was standing was wet.