

J. H. was lowered from the fourth pitch to the second pitch from where he was slung out to a waiting ambulance. (Source: George Field, Public Safety Specialist, Kananaskis Country)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY-LOWERING

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Heart Creek, Kananaskis Country

On July 18, M. P. was climbing at the Heart Creek sport climbing area when he was lowered off the end of his rope by his belayer, resulting in a six-meter fall. Injuries are unknown. He was evacuated by Peter Lougheed Park rangers. (Source: George Field, Public Safety Specialist, Kananaskis Country)

FALLING ROCK, OFF ROUTE, STRANDED

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Louis

On July 26, a party of two attempted Greenwood Route (III, 5.7) on the south Face of Mount Louis. They had difficulty following the route and found the climbing much more difficult than the 5.7 rating. Late in the day, one of the climbers was hit by a rock on the thigh. They were lost, discouraged and out of water on a south aspect during one of the hottest spells of weather recorded in the Rockies. They bivouacked with little gear (shorts and T-shirts), and at first light started yelling for help. At around 1330, a hiker passing below heard the calls and ran out to report them. A warden service rescue team responded and the pair were heli-slung off the steep face. They were dehydrated but otherwise OK.

Analysis

The party had mostly sport climbing experience. Route finding on some of the local longer limestone routes can be complex. In addition, the grades on routes put up in the sixties are sometimes considered "conservative" by modern climbers. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service)

FALLING ROCK

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Fay

On August 2, a party of three were climbing the center ice bulge on the North Face Ice routes when one of the climbers was hit by rockfall, sustaining a lower leg fracture. The party lowered the injured climber to the glacier below. One of them then descended to Moraine Lake and reported the accident to Warden Service Dispatch. The injured climber was flown out by a warden service rescue team.

Analysis

The accident happened around 0830 during a very hot period of weather with little or no freezing at night. The 1998 summer in the Canadian Rockies was poor in general for routes subject to rockfall from melt. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service)

STRANDED, OFF ROUTE, INEXPERIENCE

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Edith

On August 5, two climbers were attempting the South Ridge (II, 5.4) of Mount