

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY/ANCHOR

British Columbia, Squamish, Stawamus Chief, Exasperater

D.G. (41) fell 30 meters to his death while rock climbing on the Stawamus Chief on May 31. D.G. was an experienced climber who was roped into a harness at the time of his plunge from the Chief. D.G. had been climbing with a group on a section of the Chief's Grand Wall, known as Exasperater (5.10c). He was at the midway belay, approximately 100 feet off the ground when a second party asked him to rig a top rope for them. He complied, but during rigging somehow fell to the base of the granite monolith.

Emergency services including B.C. Ambulance Service, Squamish Fire and Rescue, and Squamish Search and Rescue were called out to the scene at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Attempts to resuscitate D.G. were unsuccessful. Paramedics temporarily revived him, but he died at the scene from massive head and chest injuries. (Source: Jane Seyd, *North Shore News*)

INADEQUATE ANCHOR AND BELAY

British Columbia, Bugaboo Glacier Provincial Park/Alpine Recreation Area, Snowpatch Spire

On July 18, a group of five climbers had climbed the Kraus/McCarthy Route on Snowpatch Spire. They were moving down to a rappel station and the victim (a sixty-four year old male) was down-climbing, belayed from above with his rope attached through a 'biner on a slung horn. The sling then popped off the horn and he fell approximately five meters and was stopped by his belayer. He dislocated the head of his upper arm. The group diagnosed the arm as being broken and a physician in the group provided first aid in the manner of immobilizing the arm. They then rappelled the route, assisting the injured man, and made their way back to the Conrad Kain Hut, where they called the air ambulance. The victim was flown to the Invermere Hospital and released the next day. The group handled the rescue very well and were totally self-sufficient until the guides took over at the hut. (Source: Dave Stark)

CLIMBING ALONE, DISAPPEARED, POSSIBLE FALL INTO CREVASSE

British Columbia, Mount Robson Provincial Park, Mount Robson

On July 31, L.B. (23) departed Berg Lake to climb Mount Robson's Fuhrer Ridge with a planned descent of the Kain Face. He failed to return as planned and a Parks Canada rescue team was notified. After two days of helicopter searching, a dog search of a natural avalanche and considerable investigative work, search efforts were suspended. No tracks or any other evidence were discovered on the mountain.

Analysis

The glaciated terrain on Mount Robson is riddled with crevasses and significant avalanche and icefall hazards exist. While search efforts for L.B. were inconclusive, a crevasse-fall seems likely. Any unroped and/or solo travel on Robson's—or any—glaciated terrain is ill-advised. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service, Jim Mamalis)