

rope, they quickly skied down the mountain and dialed 911 from the Columbia Icefields Centre pay phone. Meanwhile K.F. was able to move in the tight quarters just enough to dramatically improve his fight against succumbing to hypothermia. He was able to slide off his pack and get his wind stopper, toque, and balaclava on. He put his down coat next to his chest and with one hand (the other was numb), he managed to get a prusik around his chest so it was ready to clip by the rescuers. Jasper dispatch was notified and a helicopter was brought in. Rescue teams were assembled from Jasper and Lake Louise. Crevasses were fairly obvious from the air and the serac hazard was deemed to be reasonable. It took approximately one hour and 15 minutes for the first party to get on scene from the time of the report and two hours to complete the extrication. By that time, K.F. had spent four hours in the crevasse. By 1744, K.F. was packaged and flown out with a Jasper Public Safety Warden. By 1806 all personnel were off the glacier. At 1841, K.F. was flown with a paramedic to Banff Mineral Springs Hospital and released later that night with no injuries.

Analysis

The party had over estimated the quality of the snow cover on the glacier and choose to travel without a rope or harness on. The team climbed to a high point of a roll to get a better ski run down. Crevasses and localized scouring of snow are common near crests of rolls in glaciated terrain. The team did not see the depression of the snow indicating a crevasse until after K.F. had fallen in. The Rockies snowpack is often thinner and more variable than other mountain ranges to the west. It is rare when conditions exist for traveling unroped. (Source: Al Horton, Jasper National Park Warden Service)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE AND UNROPED

Alberta, Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, Mount Brock

On April 24, a helicopter spotted the body of C.N. (31) in rough terrain at 8,400 feet in a gully on Mount Brock in the spectacular Opal Range in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. C.N. was a climbing enthusiast who made a number of climbs in the U.S., Australia, France, and many other areas of the world. A rescue worker had to be lowered from the helicopter with ropes and a harness to recover the body. C.N. died as a result of major traumatic injuries he sustained in a fall of about 1,000 feet. It appeared from footprints that C.N. reached Brock's 2,902-metre peak before falling on the descent. A search for C.N. had been launched after he failed to return from what was supposed to be a day-long climb on April 22. Rescue personnel scoured Mount Brock and nearby Mount Blane, where C.N. began his solo ascent. C.N.'s vehicle was located in a parking lot near the trailhead shortly after police received the call from the family. A helicopter assisted personnel searching on the ground. Conservation officers used scopes to

check for any activity on the slopes. The air search was cut short on April 23 due to strong winds but resumed early on April 24. C.N. was familiar with the area, and was in Canmore/Kananaskis to make various climbs. (Source: Burke Duncan)

Analysis

C. N.'s death is the fourth solo climbing fatality in the park in two years.

FALLING ROCK

Alberta, Kananaskis Country, Mount John Laurie (Mount Yamnuska)

At the same time as they were searching for C.N. on Mount Brock on April 23, the conservation officers were called to a rescue on Mount Yamnuska about 1300. A climber was fixing a project, (climbing route) he was working on and a block fell and hit him. The rock knocked him off his stance. He hit the belay ledge eight feet below him and broke both his lower limbs in the ankle area. The hurt climber was able to call 911 on his cell phone. He then lowered himself down from the scree slope. He was slung out by helicopter. (Source: Burke Duncan)

Analysis

Spontaneous rockfall and hold failure is common in this area because of the nature of the rock in combination with the winter melt and freeze conditions. This is evident in the large scree slopes below the crag. For that reason it is imperative that climbers be alert for rockfall and holds be tested before fully weighting them.

RAPPEL ERROR, NO BACKUP, NO HARD HAT

Alberta, Kananaskis Country, Barrier Mountain, Barrier Bluffs

On April 30, a climber fell 15 to 20 metres to the ground while rappelling off a 5.8 sport climb, at Barrier Bluffs, "One Way to Wangland." The 30-year-old climber had finished leading the pitch and had rigged the rope to rappel and clean the route. The figure-8 device he used to rappel with was loaded incorrectly and he failed to test it before committing his weight to the rope. He subsequently fell directly to the ground, hit shoulder first and rolled five metres downslope, coming to rest on a rock. He was not wearing a helmet. Five other climbers immediately lowered off their respective climbs and ran to give assistance. One climber took a cell phone and headed to the road where he flagged down a car for help. Luckily, two registered nurses from the emergency department at the Calgary Foothills Hospital were in the car. They quickly made their way to the accident scene to assist. They performed a detailed assessment and determined that the victim's femur was shattered and that he had ruptured a vein or artery in the upper leg. He had also sustained a compound fracture to the elbow and radius, internal injuries and a number of deep lacerations on his head and body. When they