

to slide about 200 feet, flying over the bergschrund. Despite losing his ice ax, he stopped sliding before reaching the fumarole. He dragged himself up to the safety of the Hogsback. He had fractured his leg. Unsuccessful in attracting attention, he lowered himself about 1,000 feet to a remnant structure where he splinted his leg using abandoned timbers. He survived the night under a tarp and made voice contact with two climbers the next morning, who notified authorities. Portland Mountain Rescue lowered him in a litter about 1,000 feet to a waiting snowcat.

### **Analysis**

Late season climbs on exposed volcanic rock are predictably hazardous. Solo climbers must be particularly self-reliant on communicating their situation (signaling devices, radios, alert by family or friends when overdue, etc). It is worth noting that Marcuson was able to keep his crampons off the snow surface during his slide, thus preventing a tumbling fall. (Source: From a report by Jeff Sheetz, Portland Mountain Rescue)

## **FALL ON ICE, INADEQUATE PROTECTION**

### **Oregon, Mount Hood, Sandy Glacier**

On November 4, Kenny Dale Kasselder and Shaun Olcott (both 37) had crossed the Sandy Glacier, roped, and were beginning to ascend the headwall. One of them slipped and pulled the other off, as they had not placed any protection. They fell about 100 feet, landing in a crevasse. Olcott suffered a broken arm while Kasselder had injured his back. He lapsed into unconsciousness and died. Olcott was carrying a cell phone and was able to place a distress call to 911.

### **Analysis**

They were simply low on the headwall when the accident occurred and had not yet placed any anchors, yet the fall was still sufficient to sustain significant injuries. After the rescue, Olcott reported that his helmet was shattered.

Readers will recall the most dramatic example of the risks of non-anchored rope travel on Mount Hood. On May 30, 2002, one climber slipped at the Pearly Gates on the South Side. He started a “domino” effect, sweeping the rest of his rope team and three other teams down the mountain. Nine total climbers landed into the bergschrund. Three climbers were killed, and four were seriously injured. (Steve Rollins, Portland Mountain Rescue)

*(Editor's Note: On March 13, Beau Clark (30) died from a heart attack while climbing with friends on Broughton's Bluff. He had made it to a ledge. His friends said they heard a weird noise, and when they looked down., he was hanging about 30 feet above the ground. This is not considered to be a climbing accident, but worthy of mention.)*

## **FALL ON ROCK—LOWERING ERROR, COMMUNICATION PROBLEM**

### **Utah, Big Cottonwood Canyon**

On June 16, Doug Grennan (18) and eight friends were top-roping sport climbs in the upper S-Curves area of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Doug was