

more control than if just on two boots with a short ax in hand in case you fall. Sitting glissades with one's ax pick as the controlling brake at one's side is safer than a standing glissade. Those of us who are experienced skiers and who know we will have an opportunity to glissade will continue to use that option. But if you are a neophyte, take Gauthier's advice.)

FALL ON GLACIER ICE, INADEQUATE PROTECTION, PROTECTION PULLED OUT

Washington, Mount Rainier, Kautz Glacier Route

On August 8 at 9:15 a.m., while leading the second icy pitch of the Kautz Glacier Route, Bryan Fry (28) fell on the 45-degree icy pitch. What protection had been placed between him and his partner, John Dufay (25), pulled out as Fry fell. Fry's fall jerked Dufay off the slope and the pair tumbled an estimated 400 to 600 feet before coming to rest in a shallow crevasse.

Dufay suffered multiple lacerations and contusions during the fall; Fry sustained several minor injuries and a badly broken ankle. Dufay assisted Fry onto a narrow shelf in the crevasse and made him as comfortable as possible before seeking help. Dufay unroped and descended the route and through the ice chute back towards Camp Hazard. In the ice chute above Camp Hazard, Dufay met an RMI guide, Lyndon Mallory, who radioed the NPS for help.

Due to the terrain at the accident site and the anticipated hazards involved in a carry-out, an air evacuation was the fastest and safest option available. At 11:20 a.m., ranger Glenn Kessler spoke directly with Dufay via radio and received a first-hand account of the situation. Mallory then ascend with Dufay back to the accident site and helped care for Fry. A helicopter hoist operation was arranged to evacuate Fry from the location.

At 4:52 p.m., an Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk lifted off from Kautz Heli-base and flew to the accident site with ranger Kessler. Kessler was hoisted onto the glacier where Fry and Mallory were waiting. Fry was assessed, prepared for evacuation and hoisted back into the Blackhawk with Kessler. Mallory and Dufay descended on foot but were slowed by Dufay's injuries and exhaustion. The two bivvied around 9,000 feet and arrived at the Comet Falls Trailhead at noon the next day.

Analysis

Fry and Dufay were lucky not to have fallen farther, as the Kautz Glacier becomes an ice cliff only a few hundred feet below where they came to rest. Fry reported that he had only one or two 9cm ice screws placed when he fell.

Dufay recalls getting in position to arrest Fry's fall, but was unsuccessful stopping the fall due to the steep angle and icy conditions. He recalls slowing several times thinking the fall was over, only to be yanked downhill again. When he came to rest, he was balled up in the rope. Given the distance of their fall, it is impressive that both did not suffer more severe injuries.

While the Kautz Glacier route can be an ice-free snow climb until midseason, several parties have underestimated the difficulty of late season conditions. As the winter snow cover disappears and more ice presents itself, there is a need for more ice climbing equipment. It is difficult to predict how much ice climbing gear may be needed given the variety of conditions possible. It is best to prepare for the worst and bring a few extra screws. (Source: Mike Gauthier, SAR Ranger, Mount Rainier National Park)

LOSS OF CONTROL—VOLUNTARY GLISSADE, FAULTY USE OF CRAMPONS **Washington, Mount Rainier, Muir Snowfield**

On October 3, shortly after 4:30 p.m., Chris Beoffoli (34) began his descent from Camp Muir. While descending near 7,800 feet on the Muir Snowfield, Beoffoli, according to a report from him, "...fell back and because it was steep, I started to pick up some speed. I didn't have my ice ax within reach and, even though I should have known better, I instinctively put my heel down to stop myself and the metal teeth (of his crampons) stuck into the snow while my body kept moving." This resulted in a severely fractured ankle

At 5:15 p.m. Mt. Rainier National Park received the 911 cell phone call requesting a rescue. Shortly after sunset, an eight person NPS ground evacuation team began their ascent to the accident site. They arrived on scene two hours later and assessed Beoffoli's condition, packaged and lowered him back to Paradise in a litter. They arrived at the trailhead at 1:00 a.m. Beoffoli was released into the care of his partner who drove him a hospital for treatment. (Source: Mike Gauthier, SAR Ranger, Mount Rainier National Park and a report from Mr. Beoffoli.)

AVALANCHE

Washington, Mount Rainier, Ingraham Glacier

On October 24, climbers Aaron Koester and Matt Little contemplated a summit ascent from their high camp at Cadaver Gap, but due to a late start the pair instead decided to train and explore and the crevasses on the Ingraham Glacier. Near 11,700 feet, the team entered a large cavernous crevasse close to the Disappointment Cleaver. They traversed some 75 yards into the crevasse and found an exit ramp out the other side. While ascending the 35-40 degree exit ramp, the snow slope fractured and slid.

The slab was estimated to be about eight to 14 inches thick and ran roughly 150 feet. The avalanche swept both climbers back into the crevasse. Koester was pinned against the ice wall of the crevasse and was completely buried by the debris. Little was partially buried; only his arm and head were exposed. Little spent about 30 minutes extricating himself from the entrapment before beginning the search for his partner. By the time he located and freed Koester's head, Koester had no pulse and was very blue.