

TABLE III

	1951-03 USA	1959-03 CAN.	2004 USA	2004 CAN.
Terrain				
Rock	4141	503	96	18
Snow	2289	341	46	5
Ice	231	146	18	12
River	14	3	0	0
Unknown	22	9	0	0
Ascent or Descent				
Ascent	2735	555	118	23
Descent	2152	352	40	10
Unknown	247	10	1	2
Other ^{N.B.}	6	0	1	0
Immediate Cause				
Fall or slip on rock	2887	273	71	10
Slip on snow or ice	915	198	35	7
Falling rock, ice, or object	585	131	16	4
Exceeding abilities	500	29	25	1
Illness ¹	357	25	5	1
Stranded	310	49	13	3
Avalanche	276	120	2	5
Exposure	257	13	7	0
Rappel Failure/Error ²	252	44	11	1
Loss of control/glissade	185	16	7	0
Nut/chock pulled out	183	8	8	1
Failure to follow route	164	29	7	0
Fall into crevasse/moat	152	48	1	2
Piton/ice screw pulled out	87	12	7	0
Faulty use of crampons	87	5	5	0
Lightning	45	7	1	0
Skiing ³	50	10	1	1
Ascending too fast	61	0	3	0
Equipment failure	13	3	1	0
Other ⁴	358	34	27	1
Unknown	60	9	1	0
Contributory Causes				
Climbing unroped	960	161	19	2
Exceeding abilities	877	199	4	1
Placed no/inadequate protection	646	94	27	2
Inadequate equipment/clothing	630	68	21	0
Weather	442	63	10	1
Climbing alone	370	67	13	2
No hard hat	304	28	12	1

	1951-03 USA	1959-03 CAN	2004 USA	2004 CAN
Contributory Causes (continued)				
Nut/chock pulled out	196	31	0	1
Inadequate belay	181	27	9	1
Darkness	134	20	2	0
Poor position	151	20	6	0
Party separated	110	10	3	2
Piton/ice screw pulled out	86	13	0	0
Failure to test holds	89	28	4	3
Exposure	57	13	0	0
Failed to follow directions	71	11	0	0
Illness ¹	39	9	0	0
Equipment failure	11	7	0	0
Other ⁴	251	99	5	1
Age of Individuals				
Under 15	123	12	2	0
15-20	1226	202	9	1
21-25	1304	246	33	5
26-30	1208	205	27	3
31-35	1011	110	18	2
36-50	1090	136	58	5
Over 50	191	27	15	2
Unknown	1900	504	33	13
Experience Level				
None/Little	1676	294	48	5
Moderate (1 to 3 years)	1494	354	50	0
Experienced	1718	427	79	6
Unknown	1915	511	43	24
Month of Year				
January	202	23	7	2
February	196	51	2	4
March	279	66	13	2
April	381	33	8	5
May	847	55	18	2
June	979	65	30	4
July	1061	244	24	6
August	987	177	15	4
September	1136	70	11	4
October	415	38	20	0
November	175	14	5	2
December	86	24	7	0
Unknown	17	1	0	0
Type of Injury/Illness (Data since 1984)				
Fracture	1049	206	67	10
Laceration	622	71	35	0

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Type of Injury/Illness (Data since 1984) (continued)				
Abrasion	299	75	10	1
Bruise	406	77	27	4
Sprain/strain	281	29	24	2
Concussion	201	28	13	0
Hypothermia	144	15	3	1
Frostbite	112	9	4	0
Dislocation	99	15	10	1
Puncture	42	13	1	0
Acute Mountain Sickness	39	0	1	0
HAPE	65	0	1	0
HACE	23	0	0	0
Other ⁵	274	43	20	4
None	184	182	23	6

^{N.B.} Some accidents happen when climbers are at the top or bottom of a route, not climbing. They may be setting up a belay or rappel or are just not anchored when they fall. (This category created in 2001. We still have "Unknown" because of solo climbers.)

¹These illnesses/injuries, which led directly or indirectly to the accident, included: AMS, deep vein thrombosis, tooth problems, HAPE, frostbite, and an acute abdomen.

²These include no back-up-knot—so rappelled off end of ropes, inadequate anchors, rope too short, improper use of descending device, inattention by belayer when lowering.

³This category was set up originally for ski mountaineering. Backcountry touring or snowshoeing incidents—even if one gets avalanched—are not in the data.

⁴These include: hand or foothold broke off (10); frostbite (3); unable to self-arrest (7); rope ascender came off; failure to disclose medical condition to guides (2); dislocated shoulder while mantling; rope jammed in crack; carrying ice ax upside down; bee attack; simul-climbing—so too much slack in rope; ice pillar broke off; threw whole rope down—so stranded; let go of ice tools; tied webbing knot incorrectly on rappel anchor—so came undone when weighted; late starts resulting in benighting (2); failure to follow instincts; wet rock (3); leader unable to communicate with belayer (2).

⁵These included: dehydration and exhaustion (5), DVT, rope burns on hands; kidney failure; collapsed lung; pneumo/hemothorax; heat exhaustion; multiple bee stings; internal injuries; acute abdomen (unknown problem); tooth problems; lightning burns.

(Editor's Note: Under the category "other," many of the particular items will have been recorded under a general category. For example, the climber who dislodges a rock that falls on another climber would be coded as Falling Rock/Object, or the climber who has a hand hold come loose and falls would also be coded as Fall On Rock.

A climber disappeared on Mt. Sir Sanford, but no details are known as to whether it was on ascent or descent or what the cause may have been so it is reported as "unknown."