

down the steep snow ridge to get to the easier ground beyond.

Analysis

So what did I learn?

—I like to have an experienced helper along whenever possible on trips involving avalanche terrain and crevasses, and it paid off this time round as it was a relief to know there was someone on the surface who could get me out if need be.

—I was using a 45-m-long low-stretch 9-mm rope (rather than a dynamic climbing rope) and there were no issues with impact force, both ER and I didn't feel much of a jerk when I hit the end of the rope, and I was free falling for several meters. We also had another 35 m rope that EH was carrying, so we had plenty of cord to play with.

—I don't recommend a tractor pull unless you can communicate: if the victim is in an awkward position you could easily hurt them by blindly tugging on the rope.

—I worried a bit initially that I had almost taken the rope off due to the possibility of a slab avalanche in that exposed terrain but in the end I realize I came up with the right decision and that's a positive thing.

We had made a series of decisions before getting to that crevasse and I think they were all reasonable ones. In the end, we had to rely on our last line of defence on the glacier—the rope, but everything worked the way it was supposed to. We are never going to be entirely risk-free out there and this incident showed me that if I use all the tools I have available, I could have a scrape and walk away from it, although I don't plan on making a habit of it! (Source: Mark Klassen, ACMG / IFMGA Mountain Guide)

(Canadian Editor's Note: While this isn't an accident in the sense that it resulted in injury, it is an excellent first-hand account of a situation that provides insight into some decision making and risk management while travelling in the mountains.)

FALL ON SNOW – UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE,

British Columbia, Canadian Rockies, Castle Glacier

On Aug 3rd J.C. (22) and A.T. (24), on a day off from their university geology field trip, left their camp located at the base of Castle Glacier to ascend a nearby peak. They had to cross a crevassed glacier and ascend a loose rock rib to the summit. They brought crampons, bear spray, and a daypack. From the summit they decided to descend via a different route.

Descending the peak at 1230, they encountered very broken and friable rock that led them to a snow gully. At the top of the snow slope the party

decided to put their crampons on. A.T. had one crampon on when his pack started to slide away. He lunged for the pack, lost his balance and began to slide uncontrollably down the snow slope. He hit a rock and continued sliding and eventually fell into a ten meters deep bergschrund. J.C. down climbed and entered the bergschrund from the side to assist A.T. Together, they walked out of the side of the bergschrund. A.T. did lose consciousness momentarily during his slide after hitting the rock, broke his wrist, and received several minor scalp lacerations.

The party was able to call out on their satellite phone to the helicopter company that flew the camp in. The helicopter company initially responded but quickly realized that a heli-sling rescue would be required. The Provincial Emergency Program was contacted who then requested the assistance of Jasper National Park (JNP) Public Safety Specialists. JNP Public Safety Specialists responded and, using map coordinates from the helicopter company, located the subjects and safely evacuated them using a heli-sling.

Analysis

The climbers had limited to no experience in glaciated alpine terrain. They had no rope, ice axes, helmets, harness, only crampons and daypack. However, having a satellite phone was invaluable to call for assistance. As a result, they were successfully rescued from their predicament. (Source: G. Lemke, Public Safety Specialist, Jasper National Park)

FALLING ROCK – PULLED OFF BY LEAD CLIMBER

British Columbia, Bugaboos Provincial Park, Snowpatch Spire

On August 15, a climber was climbing the last pitch of Sunshine Crack (IV 5.10+) on Snowpatch Spire. The lead climber pulled off a rock about twice the size of his torso, which hit the belayer on his lower back. The climbers self-evacuated themselves to the Conrad Kain hut, even though the injured climber was having difficulty maintaining consciousness on the rappels. Columbia Valley Search and Rescue evacuated the climber. (Source: Tay Hanson, Senior Park Ranger)

FALL ON ROCK, PLACED NO PROTECTION

British Columbia, Bugaboos Provincial Park, Eastpost Spire

On August 31st, a climber was leading up a line on the NW side of Eastpost when he slipped and fell approximately 40 feet to the ledge below. He had not placed any protection.

Injuries were assessed as being a broken ankle, some lacerations and potential concussion. Climbers at Applebee responded and provided first aid, then radioed for help. Columbia Valley Search and Rescue evacuated