

TABLE III

	1951-09 USA	1959-04 CAN.	2010 USA	2010 CAN.
Terrain				
Rock	4607	528	128	
Snow	2408	355	53	
Ice	278	15	4	
River	15	3	0	
Unknown	22	10	0	
Ascent or Descent				
Ascent	3668	587	122	
Descent	1068	371	55	
Unknown	251	13	5	
Other ^{N.B.}	9	0	3	
Immediate Cause				
Fall or slip on rock	3648	290	97	
Slip on snow or ice	1050	207	21	
Falling rock, ice, or object	636	137	17	
Exceeding abilities	555	32	2	
Illness ¹	409	26	11	
Stranded	351	53	17	
Avalanche	299	127	5	
Rappel Failure/Error ²	303	47	12	
Exposure	278	14	0	
Loss of control/glissade	215	17	0	
Nut/chock pulled out	243	9	11	
Failure to follow route	213	30	6	
Fall into crevasse/moat	167	50	2	
Faulty use of crampons	115	6	0	
Piton/ice screw pulled out	95	13	0	
Ascending too fast	67	0	5	
Skiing ³	58	11	6	
Lightning	46	7	1	
Equipment failure	16	3	0	
Other ⁴	522	37	27	
Unknown	61	10	0	
Contributory Causes				
Climbing unroped	1021	165	10	
Exceeding abilities	917	202	38	
Placed no/inadequate protection	794	96	19	
Inadequate equipment/clothing	701	70	16	
Weather	481	67	14	
Climbing alone	408	69	12	

	1951-09 USA	1959-04 CAN	2010 USA	2010 CAN
No hard hat	354	71	5	
Inadequate belay ²	228	28	14	
Nut/chock pulled out	201	32	8	
Poor position	188	20	16	
Darkness	150	21	15	
Party separated	117	12	1	
Failure to test holds	105	32	0	
Piton/ice screw pulled out	86	13	0	
Failed to follow directions	73	12	0	
Exposure	64	16	1	
Illness ¹	40	9	0	
Equipment failure	11	7	0	
Other ⁴	271	100	10	
Age of Individuals				
Under 15	1246	12	0	
15-20	1288	203	6	
21-25	1439	257	35	
26-30	1327	211	41	
31-35	2006	114	26	
36-50	1307	143	43	
Over 50	284	31	31	
Unknown	2029	530	57	
Experience Level				
None/Little	1785	304	41	
Moderate (1 to 3 years)	1650	354	27	
Experienced	2099	440	81	
Unknown	2138	559	99	
Month of Year				
January	241	25	1	
February	213	55	9	
March	321	68	6	
April	421	39	8	
May	957	62	23	
June	1100	70	40	
July	1174	254	24	
August	1075	184	27	
September	1191	75	24	
October	474	42	11	
November	203	20	6	
December	105	24	6	
Unknown	17	1	1	

	1951-09 USA	1959-04 CAN	2010 USA	2010 CAN
Type of Injury/Illness (Data since 1984)				
Fracture	1352	223	57	
Laceration	737	71	19	
Abrasion	361	76	17	
Bruise	512	83	25	
Sprain/strain	385	33	29	
Concussion	266	28	8	
Hypothermia	162	16	7	
Frostbite	134	12	2	
Dislocation	137	16	9	
Puncture	52	13	1	
Acute Mountain Sickness	45	0	1	
HAPE	74	0	7	
HACE	25	0	3	
Other ⁵	350	49	7	
None	265	188	30	

^{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. The category "unknown" is primarily because of solo climbers.)

¹These illnesses/injuries, which led directly or indirectly to the accident, included: kidney stones; pre-existing atrial irregularity; HAPE (4).

²These included: clipping in to gear loop; rope too short; no knot in end of rope (4); distraction (4); lowered off end of rope; belayer pulled partner off; inadequate back-up; threaded lowering rope through nylon sling which burned through; slack in belay rope; carabiner not closed.

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 included: distraction (4); communication problems (3); unable to self-arrest (3); leader broke ice dam, releasing water and ice that hit partner; failure to pay attention to weather patterns; dislodging rock caused fall; cornice gave away; ice column collapsed; "summit fever;" inadequate self-rescue skills; tangled in climbing rope—caused fall; misjudged pendulum swing distance; climber unclipped from team and disappeared.

⁵These included: dehydration; exhaustion; thumb amputation; hyperextension; back spasms; internal injuries; chest trauma; 1,000 bee stings; dehydration; rope burn.

(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." A climber who has a hand or foot-hold come loose and falls would be coded as "Fall On Rock" and "Other" — and most often includes "Failure To Test Holds; rappel and belay errors are also recorded as "Fall on Rock," and so forth.)