

The American Alpine Club Safety Committee

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TABLE I

Year	Total Number of Reported Accidents	Number of Deaths
1947	15	11
1948	28	15
1949	17	9
1950	30	8
1951	18	4
1952	35	14
1953	25	12
1954	31	8
1955	34	6
1956	46	10
1957	45	17
1958	29	11

TABLE II

Geographical Districts	Accidents	
	1947-1957	1958
Atlantic States—North	25	4
South	4	0
Central	2	0
Colorado	52	0
Utah & New Mexico	8	0
Wyoming	35	4
Montana & Idaho	8	0

TABLE II (Continued)

	Accidents	
	1947-1957	1958
Arizona & Nevada	5	0
California	45	6
Oregon	23	5
Washington	58	8
Alaska	4	1
Practice Cliffs—all areas	18	1
Terrain		
Rock	184	20
Snow	91	8
River	1	0
Unknown	6	0
Ascent or Descent (River crossing not included)		
Ascent	109	17
Descent	134	10
Unknown	36	1
Immediate Cause		
Fall or Slip on Rock	92	10
Loose Rock (Handhold Pulled Out)	19	1
Failure of Piton	2	0
Falling Rock	27	5
Failure of Rappel	21	0
Slip on Snow or Ice	45	2
Fall into Crevasse	10	0
Loss of Control in Voluntary Glissade	18	2
Avalanche	9	0
Lightning	4	1
Failure to Follow Route	2	2
Stuck Rope	2	0
Skiing	1	0
Crampon pierced clothing and/or ripped by.....	3	0
Fall in River	1	0
Unsafe Campsite	1	0
Exposure and/or Exhaustion	5	2
Heat Prostration	1	0
Illness, Medical	0	2
Unknown	14	2
Contributory Causes		
Climbing Unroped	76	5
Climbing Alone	26	1
Attempt to Exceed Abilities (Unexperienced)	37	3
Darkness	8	0
Inadequate Equipment	8	2
Old Rope	8	0

TABLE II (Continued)

	Accidents	
	1947-1957	1958
Size of Party		
One	27	1
Two	68	6
Three	69	6
Four	32	4
Five	14	3
Six or More	44	8
Unknown	38	0
Age of Individuals		
Under 15	5	3
15-20 years	99	13
“Young or College Age”	41	0
21-25	69	6
26-30	34	3
31-35	27	1
Over 35	20	3
Unknown	23	1
Unaffiliated with Climbing Group		
Unaffiliated	68	13
Not Stated	98	3
Member of Mountaineering Club	118	13
Estimate of Experience		
None or Little	118	12
Moderate	58	12
Experienced	44	4
Unknown	63	0
Month of Year		
January	5	1
February	10	1
March	3	3
April	15	1
May	16	4
June	20	3
July	43	5
August	50	6
September	31	3
October	12	1
November	7	1
December	4	0