

The line was too slippery to grip, and he slid off its end while going into ice axe self-arrest with the other hand. He slid over a stone lip, onto another snow slope, and managed to stop at the bottom after losing his axe. (Source: Smith.)

Analysis: The slipperiness of polypropylene and the small diameter used for handlines make a difficult combination.

TABLE I
Reported Mountaineering Accidents

Year	Number of Accidents Reported USA-CAN.	Total Number of Persons Involved USA-CAN.	Injured USA-CAN.	Killed USA-CAN.
1951	15	22	11	3
1952	31	35	17	13
1953	24	27	12	12
1954	31	41	31	8
1955	34	39	28	6
1956	46	72	54	13
1957	45	53	28	18
1958	32	39	23	11
1959	42 — 2	56 — 2	31 — 0	19 — 2
1960	47 — 4	64 — 12	37 — 8	19 — 4
1961	49 — 9	61 — 14	45 — 10	14 — 4
1962	71 — 1	90 — 1	64 — 0	19 — 1
1963	68 — 11	79 — 12	47 — 10	19 — 2
1964	53 — 11	65 — 16	44 — 10	14 — 3
1965	72 — 0	90 — 0	59 — 0	21 — 0
1966	67 — 7	80 — 9	52 — 6	16 — 3
1967	74 — 10	110 — 14	63 — 7	33 — 5
1968	70 — 13	87 — 19	43 — 12	27 — 5
1969	94 — 11	125 — 17	66 — 9	31 — 2
1970	129 — 11	174 — 11	88 — 5	16 — 5
1971	110 — 17	138 — 29	76 — 12	35 — 7
1972*	141 — 28	184 — 40	98 — 17	49 — 12
1973	108 — 5	131 — 5	85 — 3	36 — 2
Totals	1,453 — 140	1,862 — 201	1,102 — 109	452 — 57

*Note: Figures for 1972 have been corrected to reflect late reports.