

TABLE III
Numbers Refer to Persons Directly Involved

	1951-75 USA	1959-75 CAN.	1976 USA	1976 CAN.
Terrain¹				
Rock	1344	115	84	10
Snow	715	108	85	2
Ice	1	1	24	2
River	5	0	1	1
Unknown	10	2	0	0
Ascent or Descent				
Ascent	1051	123	56	7
Descent	875	87	71	4
Unknown	135	8	10	0
Immediate Cause				
Fall or slip on rock	773	57	62	6
Slip on snow or ice	258	30	43	2
Falling rock or object	175	40	8	2
Avalanche ²	139	41	23	1
Exceed abilities	131	6	26	2
Exposure and/or exhaustion	100	2	5	0
Stranded	97	12	3	0
Failure of rappel	88	3	6	0
Loss of control—voluntary glissade	72	6	3	0
Failure of piton	58	4	0	3
Illness—including pulmonary edema/frostbite ³	45	3	17	0
Fall into crevasse	36	11	17	1
Lightning	31	3	1	0
Faulty use of crampons	13	2	8	0
Failure to follow route	14	0	5	1
Skiing	8	4	4	0
Prussik/ascending device failure . .	3	0	0	0
Heat Prostration	3	0	0	0
Failure of nut	1	0	3	0
Other ⁴	1	0	6	1
Unknown	19	2	1	1
Contributory Causes				
Climbing unroped	490	47	9	2
Exceeding abilities	475	62	35	2
Inadequate equipment	210	17	16	3
Climbing alone	146	15	11	1
Bad weather	106	7	15	0
Failure of piton	59	5	0	0
Darkness	59	3	2	2
Party separated	40	6	11	0
Exposure and/or exhaustion	17	1	3	0

TABLE III (Continued)

	1951-75 USA	1959-75 CAN.	1976 USA	1976 CAN.
Old rope	8	1	0	0
No hard hat	10	1	6	1
Failure to test holds	3	0	3	0
Placed no protection	4	0	7	0
Failure of nut	6	0	3	0
Waist/harness failure	1	1	0	1
Other ⁴	—	—	5	0
Age of Individuals				
Under 15	79	5	4	0
15-20	722	98	41	3
21-25	524	45	59	3
26-30	248	48	34	0
31-35	126	17	16	0
36-50	194	27	18	1
Over 50			4	0
Unknown	224	34	38	3
Affiliation with Climbing Groups				
Unaffiliated	685	41	66	1
Affiliated	706	125	65	3
Unknown	676	20	61	6
Estimate of Experience				
None or little	934	75	54	4
Moderate	540	59	48	1
Experienced	348	72	46	3
Unknown	269	19	51	2
Month of Year				
January	81	3	2	0
February	76	14	15	0
March	109	3	16	1
April	109	3	19	1
May	175	11	24	2
June	335	32	25	1
July	371	77	51	5
August	364	63	21	4
September	210	8	9	0
October	110	6	5	2
November	68	1	6	0
December	8	2	9	0

¹Many accidents involve a combination of terrains.

²This includes two avalanches which buried three ski tourers.

³This includes two cases of diabetics unable to make insulin adjustments at high altitudes.

⁴These include: a) practice belaying, b) using a poncho to slide down a steep snow slope, c) falling into a river, d) being pinned by a loose boulder, e) rappelling from a building, and f) a rope breaking.