

**TABLE III**  
**Numbers Refer to Persons Directly Involved**

	1951-76 USA	1959-76 CAN.	1977 USA	1977 CAN.
<b>Terrain<sup>1</sup></b>				
Rock . . . . .	1428	127	70	26
Snow . . . . .	800	110	41	35
Ice . . . . .	25	3	9	1
River . . . . .	6	1	1	1
Unknown . . . . .	10	2	0	0
<b>Ascent or Descent</b>				
Ascent . . . . .	1107	132	55	25
Descent . . . . .	946	91	45	8
Unknown . . . . .	145	8	16	4
<b>Immediate Cause</b>				
Fall or slip on rock . . . . .	835	64	42	8
Slip on snow or ice . . . . .	301	32	27	18
Falling rock or object . . . . .	183	42	19	14
Avalanche . . . . .	164	41	2	22
Exceed abilities . . . . .	157	9	9	0
Exposure and/or exhaustion . . . . .	105	2	10	4
Stranded . . . . .	100	12	4	0
Failure of rappel . . . . .	94	3	3	0
Loss of control—voluntary glissade . . . . .	75	6	5	0
Failure of piton . . . . .	58	7	0	2
Illness—including pulmonary edema/frostbite . . . . .	62	3	5	1
Fall into crevasse . . . . .	53	12	3	3
Lightning . . . . .	34	3	0	0
Faulty use of crampons . . . . .	21	2	0	0
Failure to follow route . . . . .	19	1	4	3
Skiing . . . . .	12	4	1	0
Prussik/ascending device failure . . . . .	3	0	0	0
Heat Prostration . . . . .	3	0	0	0
Failure of nut . . . . .	4	0	4	1
<b>Other<sup>2</sup></b> . . . . .	7	1	7	4
Unknown . . . . .	20	3	1	0
<b>Contributory Causes</b>				
Climbing unroped . . . . .	499	49	13	2
Exceeding abilities . . . . .	510	64	12	2
Inadequate equipment . . . . .	226	20	17	4
Climbing alone . . . . .	157	16	8	0
Bad weather . . . . .	121	7	13	0
Failure of piton . . . . .	59	5	0	0
Darkness . . . . .	61	5	3	0
Party separated . . . . .	51	6	1	0
Exposure and/or exhaustion . . . . .	20	1	4	0

TABLE III (Continued)

	1951-76	1959-76	1977	1977
	USA	CAN.	USA	CAN.
Old rope . . . . .	8	1	0	0
No hard hat . . . . .	16	2	1	0
Failure to test holds . . . . .	6	0	3	1
Placed no protection . . . . .	11	0	7	0
Failure of nut . . . . .	9	0	6	0
Waist/harness failure . . . . .	1	1	0	0
Other <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5	0	3	0
<b>Age of Individuals</b>				
Under 15 . . . . .	83	5	2	0
15-20 . . . . .	763	101	31	7
21-25 . . . . .	583	50	38	10
26-30 . . . . .	282	48	24	9
31-35 . . . . .	142	17	20	2
36-50 . . . . .	212	28	7	12
Over 50 . . . . .	4	0	1	0
Unknown . . . . .	262	37	9	25
<b>Affiliation with Climbing Groups</b>				
Unaffiliated . . . . .	751	42	30	10
Affiliated . . . . .	771	128	22	16
Unknown . . . . .	738	26	50	23
<b>Estimate of Experience</b>				
None or little . . . . .	988	79	26	10
Moderate . . . . .	588	60	22	13
Experienced . . . . .	394	75	33	13
Unknown . . . . .	320	21	35	29
<b>Month of Year</b>				
January . . . . .	83	3	3	0
February . . . . .	91	14	4	1
March . . . . .	125	5	4	15
April . . . . .	128	4	4	1
May . . . . .	199	13	20	2
June . . . . .	360	33	20	2
July . . . . .	422	82	22	15
August . . . . .	385	67	23	16
September . . . . .	219	8	13	2
October . . . . .	115	8	6	4
November . . . . .	74	1	3	0
December . . . . .	17	2	0	1

<sup>1</sup>Many accidents involve a combination of terrains.

<sup>2</sup>These include: a) panic because of terrain; b) vegetation for anchor point; c) climbing in closed area; d) snakes causing panic; e) belayer who failed to hold the second *below* him—the latter dropping 90 feet with no injury; f) half-inch frayed webbing on protection piece broke—on a 5.10 route; g) attempting to retrieve a jammed rope.