Analysis

The victim was using a Whillans Sit Harness. Harnesses of this type, when used alone, do not prevent the climber from hanging upside down and increase the danger of head injuries in a fall. It is safer to use either a full body harness or a seat and chest harness combination.

More adequate clothing would have reduced the number of cuts and abrasions. The size of the party should also be a consideration when climbing in an area with a large amount of loose rock. (Source: T. Auger and T. Davidson, Banff National Park)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING UNROPED, INEXPERIENCE, FATIGUE Alberta, Practice Rock at Lake O'Hara

Two young Lake O'Hara Lodge staff members got up early on July 29, 1982 and climbed Mount Lefroy. They were down early and decided to do some practice rock climbing. They climbed a 150-foot pitch and then started to downclimb unroped. The first climber reached the bottom successfully. He looked up to see his partner falling down head first and then striking the ground. The victim was unconscious and suffered head injuries and a broken arm. He was evacuated by helicopter. (Source: R. Ralf, Yoho National Park)

Analysis

The climbers should have used the rope and belays for downclimbing. Fatigue and inexperience contributed to this accident. (Source: R. Ralf, Yoho National Park.)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING UNROPED, INEXPERIENCE, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Vimy Mountain

On July 30, 1982, three young men were climbing the face of Vimy Mountain. They were unroped and poorly equipped and dressed. One man slipped and fell approximately 30 feet down a waterfall. He suffered a broken ankle and severe cuts. The members of the party came off the mountain under their own power. (Source: M. Winkler, Waterton Lakes National Park)

Analysis

The party was inexperienced and two of the members lacked good mountaineering boots. Their inability to select a route suitable to their experience was no doubt a contributing factor. This is an example of how scrambling can turn into climbing. Whether the party set out to climb or not isn't known. (Source: M. Winkler, Waterton Lakes National Park)

FALL ON ROCK, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, NO HARD HAT Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Tunnel Mountain

On August 18, 1982, two brothers (22 and 14) from Calgary were attempting the Gooseberry Route (5.7) on Tunnel Mountain. The older one, who was leading, missed the start of the difficult third pitch and wandered into difficulties. He had