

TABLE III
Numbers Refer to Persons Directly Involved*

	1951-81 USA	1959-81 CAN.	1982 USA	1982 CAN.
Terrain				
Rock.....	1760	220	75	16
Snow.....	1034	187	59	25
Ice.....	70	23	9	6
River.....	10	2	0	0
Unknown.....	10	4	0	1
*Ascent or Descent:				
Ascent.....	1434	224	89	26
Descent.....	1130	141	47	18
Unknown.....	207	28	4	4
Immediate Cause				
Fall or slip on rock	1056	102	52	14
Slip on snow or ice	425	81	32	6
Falling rock or object.....	230	71	14	6
Exceed abilities	196	19	23	5
Avalanche	189	75	9	6
Exposure and/or exhaustion.....	141	8	15	2
Stranded	129	24	9	5
Failure of rappel	120	9	1	3
Illness—including edema/frostbite ¹	102	9	16	3
Loss of control—voluntary glissade.....	96	8	7	2
Fall into crevasse	74	19	3	4
Failure of piton	64	11	2	1
Failure to follow route	42	5	6	6
Skiing	17	4	0	1
Lightning.....	33	3	0	0
Faulty use of crampons.....	31	2	1	1
Failure of nut	14	1	3	0
Heat prostration.....	4	1	0	0
Prusik/ascending device failure.....	3	1	1	0
Other ²	24	5	2	2
Unknown ³	32	4	2	1
Contributory Causes				
Climbing unroped.....	599	73	34	10
Exceeding abilities.....	581	82	21	11
Inadequate equipment	295	36	34	5
Climbing alone	185	22	8	6
Bad weather.....	174	10	19	4
Darkness	71	5	3	2
Failure of piton	64	6	2	1
Party separated.....	57	7	1	2
No hard hat.....	48	5	12	3
Placed no/inadequate protection.....	49	7	18	5
Failure of nut	34	2	6	1

Exposure and/or exhaustion.....	31	3	3	4
Failure to test holds/old pitons	15	4	4	0
Old rope	8	1	0	0
Waist/harness failure	2	1	0	0
Other ⁴	37	8	15	3
Age of Individuals				
Under 15.....	88	10	1	1
15-20.....	883	145	22	13
21-25.....	798	130	42	30
26-30.....	413	95	28	17
31-35.....	204	36	21	10
36-50.....	271	53	21	5
Over 50	20	5	11	1
Unknown.....	499	103	20	49
*Affiliation with Climbing Groups				
Unaffiliated	938	84	65	19
Affiliated	886	186	14	16
Unknown.....	1001	181	61	91
Estimate of Experience				
None or little.....	1097	134	24	24
Moderate.....	791	133	29	32
Experienced.....	537	147	40	33
Unknown.....	533	103	60	37
*Month of Year				
January.....	108	4	2	2
February	108	24	3	3
March	154	25	7	1
April	156	9	7	1
May	276	24	29	1
June.....	437	23	19	3
July.....	534	128	19	8
August	469	119	27	21
September.....	283	20	10	4
October	154	17	11	3
November.....	93	2	4	1
December	23	5	2	0

¹ Guided party—client screening with respect to medical condition not accurate.

² Snake bite.

³ One of these was probably a cornice collapse.

⁴ These include: a) lack of food/liquid at high altitude, b) inadequate ice-tool placement, c) lost clothing/equipment in fall, d) failed to check feet in cold, e) camping in avalanche path, f) guide abandoned his party, g) rescuers put at risk while searching, h) trying to stick to a schedule, i) climbing roped, j) fall into moat, and k) inadequate belay (six cases).

* The numbers found under the categories **Ascent or Descent**, **Affiliation with Climbing Groups**, and **Month of Year** reflect the actual number of accidents reported. Other categories reflect the actual number of individuals involved.