

Fourteen accidents resulted in fractures, including abrasions and lacerations, while the rest resulted in a variety of injuries, primarily abrasions and lacerations.

In future editions, we hope to have more reporting efforts like this reflected in order to provide a more complete picture of climbing accidents as the sport continues to grow. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE

Montana, Glacier National Park

On October 12, 1983, Ken Lynch (28) and Steve Fernekes (27) were picking their way down from the top of Swiftcurrent Peak Glacier on the north face. They were attempting to work down approximately 30 meters and then work their way around to the south slopes. Fernekes had climbed down to a ledge. Lynch handed down some equipment and was attempting to climb down to the ledge. Fernekes was holding Lynch's foot in a small crack. Lynch lost his hold, fell approximately six meters, and was stopped by rock. Fernekes fell and slipped off the ledge and down the rock face about 180 meters, landing in the bergschrund. (Source: Oakley Blair, Ranger, Glacier National Park)

Analysis

There was snow-covered ice on the rocks running seven to twelve centimeters deep. Footing conditions were considered extremely hazardous. There had been rain and snow intermittently over several days preceding October 12. On the day of the accident the sky was clear, with slight breezes and a daytime temperature of 5°C and an evening temperature of -3°C. The aspect of this side of the mountain is situated where the sun is blocked out and is in a shadow at this time of the year. The south side of the mountain is completely exposed to the sun and was void of snow.

These climbers did not have crampons, ropes, helmets, hardware, or adequate clothing, and had little experience. (Source: Oakley Blair, Ranger, Glacier National Park)

FALL ON ROCK, INEXPERIENCE

New Hampshire, Mount Washington

On December 31, 1982, at 2300, Edward Aalbue (21) fell to his death while out looking for a friend who was overdue from a climb of the Central Gully in Huntington Ravine. Aalbue went out toward the climb from Harvard Cabin, where he and his friends from an outing club at a New York college were staying. He slipped on a rock, six or seven meters up from the base of the climb, and landed on his head on the scree and talus below. (Source: Rick Wilcox, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service)

Analysis

While this is not considered a climbing accident, it is reported to illustrate how quickly hiking can turn into a climbing situation. Aalbue was concerned for his friend, but did not have the proper equipment and training for the conditions

encountered. His overdue friend, who had some experience, got lost on the descent, arriving on the scene as an evacuation was underway. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALLING ICE, FALL ON ICE

New Hampshire, Crawford Notch

In February, 1983, Jeffrey Watoski (23) was climbing in Crawford Notch when he was hit by a falling piece of ice, causing him to fall 50 meters. He broke a leg and was rescued by the New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service. (Source: Rick Wilcox, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service)

FALL ON ICE, HIGH WINDS

New Hampshire, Mount Washington

On March 24, 1983, Kenneth Hokenson (23) and Ali Kashkooli (30) were descending Mount Washington when high wind knocked Kashkooli off his feet. Hokenson ran down the slope to try to stop him and slipped. Both fell over 100 meters, stopping in Raymond Cataract. Hokenson was killed in the fall, and Kashkooli was seriously injured. (Source: Rick Wilcox, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue)

Analysis

It had rained above timberline, and then the temperatures dropped. As there was little snow cover, a very hard layer of ice crust formed. Only a perfect self-arrest could have prevented a long, high-speed slide. Both men were well equipped and had been on the mountain for three days. (Source: Rick Wilcox, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service)

FALL ON ICE, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE

New Hampshire, Mount Washington

On March 27, 1983, Mark Brockman (19) was descending Mount Washington via the Tuckerman Ravine Trail with a group from the Boston University Outing Club when he fell to his death. (Source: Rick Wilcox, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue)

Analysis

The same ground conditions described in the previous accident prevailed. This group of hikers did not have appropriate clothing and equipment for these conditions. Brockman was wearing instep crampons. He had fallen other times as well. Once again, hikers are seen encountering a mountaineering situation. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK

New Hampshire, Iron Mountain

On June 12, 1983, three hikers were descending from Iron Mountain when one of them got too close to the edge of a cliff and fell 100 meters to a ledge. (Source: Rick Wilcox, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service)