

TABLE III

	1951-85 USA	1959-85 CAN.	1986 USA	1986 CAN.
Terrain				
Rock	2228	281	150	15
Snow	1369	232	38	11
Ice	103	43	5	5
River	12	3	0	0
Unknown	16	6	2	0
Ascent or Descent				
Ascent	1925	286	154	21
Descent	1379	199	47	10
Unknown	227	41	1	0
Immediate Cause				
Fall or slip on rock	1399	138	117	9
Slip on snow or ice	541	106	20	6
Falling rock or object	292	85	21	6
Exceeding abilities	240	26	21	0
Avalanche	213	86	1	3
Exposure	172	12	10	0
Stranded	148	35	3	1
Illness ¹	138	12	11	0
Failure of Rappel.....	132	16	2	2
Loss of control/voluntary glissade	125	11	2	0
Fall into crevasse/moat	89	26	4	3
Piton pulled out	67	12	1	0
Failure to follow route	66	15	8	2
Faulty use of crampons	38	3	2	0
Lightning	34	3	0	0
Skiing	29	6	1	1
Nut/chock pulled out	23	3	4	0
Ascending too fast	6	0	2	0
Equipment failure	4	2	0	0
Other ²	44	8	13	1
Unknown	43	7	2	0
Contributory Causes				
Climbing unroped	692	93	28	3
Exceeding abilities	680	115	12	3
Inadequate equipment	399	46	17	0
Weather	237	22	15	0
Climbing alone	219	32	6	3
Placed no/inadequate protection	147	17	39	4
Darkness	81	11	3	0
Nut/chock pulled out	80	3	14	0
No hard hat	79	9	15	1
Piton pulled out	74	8	1	2
Party separated	63	12	3	1
Exposure	41	9	2	0
Failure to test holds	35	6	6	4
Inadequate belay	16	2	8	3
Poor position	13	1	5	4
Failed to follow directions	13	1	6	0
Illness ¹	7	1	10	1
Equipment failure	3	2	1	0
Other ²	88	22	11	4

	1951-85 USA	1959-85 CAN.	1986 USA	1986 CAN.
Age of Individuals				
Under 15	93	11	2	0
15-20	976	172	15	1
21-25	1010	185	72	7
26-30	586	131	54	7
31-35	290	61	25	1
36-50	392	71	34	7
Over 50	52	8	3	1
Unknown	565	263	9	16
Experience Level				
None/Little	1214	202	17	20
Moderate (1 to 3 years)	1038	221	32	13
Experienced	748	227	59	7
Unknown	779	192	62	0
Month of Year				
January	125	6	3	0
February	132	29	6	0
March	175	30	2	2
April	198	16	15	2
May	406	31	49	1
June	529	31	22	2
July	648	157	29	5
August	580	157	24	15
September	886	29	27	0
October	207	23	12	2
November	108	3	6	0
December	30	8	0	2
Type of Injury/Illness				
Fracture	123	8	67	10
Bruise	34	3	12	2
Abrasions	37	2	20	2
Laceration	48	3	29	2
Sprain/strain	28	5	11	1
Concussion	14	3	6	1
Dislocation	*	*	10	0
Puncture	7	1	3	1
Frostbite	12	0	6	0
HAPE ³	7	0	6	0
Acute Mountain Sickness	2	0	2	0
CE	0	0	1	0
Hypothermia	10	2	8	3
Other ⁴	36	3	21	4
None	7	0	7	0

¹ These include: a) CO poisoning (2); b) pneumonia (1); c) HAPE and CE (7); d) fatigue/exhaustion (10); e) impaired hearing (1).

² These include: a) failure to turn back; b) improper technique; c) lost ice ax while trying to self arrest; d) climber dislodged rock; e) harness came off; f) wasp attack; g) helmet broke; h) marijuana; i) dislocated knee while climbing; j) dislocated ankle while rappelling; k) improper instruction.

³ One case was under 3400 meters, one was on the Grand Teton, and one was on Mount Rainier.

⁴ These include eye injuries and fatigue/exhaustion.