

some value, but was unavailable. During the hoist into the helicopter, he suffered a flash superficial freezing of both hands since his ungloved hands were exposed to rotor wash of over 100 kph and temperature was -24 degrees C.

On examination in Talkeetna, the patient could walk with difficulty, both legs were spastic, and reflexes were hyperactive. Bilateral ankle clonus was also present. By the time he left the hospital a few days later, he was making good progress with walking rehabilitation training, his frostbite was healing, and he was able to go back to his job as a letter carrier in New Jersey a month later. (Source: Dr. Peter Hackett, Director, Denali Medical Research Project)

AVALANCHE, POOR POSITION

Alaska, Mount McKinley

On June 1, 1988, the four man Italian "Valmalenco Expedition" departed the Southeast Fork of the Kahiltna to traverse over Kahiltna Pass in an attempt of the Wickersham Wall. On June 4 they proceeded over Peak 3270 meters and down the north ridge dropping 150 meters. From here all four proceeded off the ridge to the west another 30 meters. At this point, Giancarlo Lenatti skied down another 250 meters to 2780 meters in order to observe a safe descent route. Just after he stopped, around 1600, the slope where the other three stood avalanched toward the west into the upper Peters Basin. The crownline spanned approximately 200 meters with a depth of 1.2 to 1.5 meters. It ran over 200 meters stopping in the upper Peters Basin. At the time of the avalanche, all four members were unroped and on skis. Floriano Lenatti and Roberto Dioli were caught and swept out of the debris along the north side of the run. The fourth member, Marco Pedrolini, was taken down the entire avalanche path where he was swept into a crevasse. The major portion of avalanche debris swept over Pedrolini. Pedrolini was left unhurt and only partially buried. He was able to extricate himself from the crevasse. The group lost most of their gear in the slide. All four proceeded back up over Peak 3270 meters, continuing down the Southeast Fork where they flew back to Talkeetna on June 5. (Source: Roger Robinson, Mountaineering Ranger, Denali National Park)

Analysis

Considering this season's excessive snow fall and the preceeding heavy snow storm of June 2, this descent route was a poor choice. The Italian party was advised of this season's excessive snow fall and the extreme avalanche conditions that exist throughout the range. (Source: Roger Robinson, Mountaineering Ranger, Denali National Park)

AVALANCHE

Alaska, Mount Blackburn

On June 16, 1988, a Japanese climbing party of four, led by Yoichi Tadokoro (44) were at the 3200 meter level on the Northwest Ridge of Mount Blackburn when two members were struck after they had traversed about 100 meters. They were carried down to the 2200 meter level. Toshiaki Masuko (30) was killed, and Shideo Ogawa (49) was buried. Todakoro and his roped partner, Shigeru Yamaya, were not caught,