

two-hour hike to the golf course, where he caught a ride to Mineral Springs Hospital in Banff. His injuries were a clean midshaft humerus fracture and a severe compound distal radius fracture.

### **Analysis**

Greg feels he should have put his crampons back on, and that his mental concentration wavered while he was in an exposed position. He reflected that, "A climb isn't over 'til it's over." (Source: Greg S.)

## **FALL ON ROCK, UNROPED**

### **Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Rundle**

In July, 1990, Martin (20) was scrambling unroped on slabs several hundred meters above the practice area on the east face of Mount Rundle when he fell, apparently at least 50 meters. His body was found after he was reported missing by friends.

### **Analysis**

It is most likely that Martin, an inexperienced rock climber, got into trouble while trying out the new high performance rock shoes he had just purchased at a local store that morning. (Source: T. Auger, Banff Warden Service)

## **FAILURE TO TEST PROTECTION, ANCHOR SLING FAILURE, FALL ON ROCK**

### **Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Spray Slabs**

Spray Slabs is a practice area near Banff. In July, 1990, a leader (46) climbed a short distance above his belayer, clipped into a very old 9 mm webbing sling on a piton, and committed his weight to it. The knot held, but the sling broke and the victim fell, bounced off a narrow ledge, and landed on a wider ledge. He suffered bruises and a broken ankle.

### **Analysis**

An existing anchor, especially a sling, is always suspect and relied on. (Source: T. Auger, Warden Service, Banff National Park)

## **FALL ON SNOW AND ICE, NO BELAY**

### **Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Temple**

On August 1, 1990, a party of two climbed the Aemmer) snow couloir variant to the East Ridge route on Mount Temple and scouted out the rest of the route. Because of deteriorating weather, they decided to retreat down the couloir. They were wet and cold. They rappelled the upper third without incident, and then continued by down-climbing with 50 meters of rope before them, using crampons and ice axes. The 45-degree snow was becoming saturated with rain.

The higher climber fell and slid twice the rope length, where he was stopped by his partner, who then yelled for him to anchor himself and relieve the weight on the rope. When the fallen climber did not respond, the one holding the rope tried to move down to relieve the tension on it, which he could barely support. He lost control, and both climbers fell another 60 to 100 meters.