

fell 15 meters down the rock until the rope came tight through her only protection placement. Screaming in pain when she stopped, Laura managed to climb some five meters back up to the belay.

Her apparent injuries included sprains of both ankles, a sprained thumb, cuts and abrasions of both hands, and abrasions of her seat. Marty put a jacket on her and gave her water, then lowered her down the route, leaving behind a few pitons, several slings, and a lot of blood. He was amazed at how well she endured the descent, as she could not use her hands, but had to use her injured ankles throughout. At the base, Marty taped up Laura's worst ankle, took all their heavy gear in his pack, and helped her to walk out to the road before dark, at about 2200. He then drove her to Canmore Hospital, where she was checked over, given first aid, and told to come back in the morning for X-rays. She had no fractures, but two badly strained finger tendons added to the list of her injuries. (Source: Marty)

### **Analysis**

Laura was wearing a helmet and day pack, which protected her head and back when she fell. The sparse protection may have made her impatient after the crux moves, and may have caused her to rely on handholds without testing them. (Source: Orvel Miskiw)

## **FALL ON ICE, PLACED NO PROTECTION**

### **Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Aberdeen**

About 1700 on August 27, a party of four were descending the north glacier separating the summits of Mts. Aberdeen (3152 meters) and Haddo. On the lower ice tongue (angled about 38 degrees), they were tied in on separate ropes, with R. T. and A. B. descending together on one of them, separated about 20 meters. R. T., who was higher, fell and pulled A. B. off. They both slid about 60 meters onto lower-angled ice, where A. B. managed to self-arrest short of the rocks beyond the glacier. R. T. suffered leg and ankle fractures as well as serious chest injuries likely caused by an ice ax, while A. B. sustained minor knee injuries. They were helped down by their two companions, and a member of another party nearby went out for help and reported the accident to the Banff Warden Service about 1900. The climbers were evacuated by heli-sling and transferred to Banff EMS before nightfall. R. T. was diagnosed with serious internal bleeding, and would likely not have survived the night if he had not been hospitalized.

### **Analysis**

When traveling on bare ice, even with crampons, it is very difficult to self-arrest, or to hold any type of fall without a belay, even on moderate terrain such as this glacier on Mt. Aberdeen. If a rope is necessary for safety, then the use of belays and/or protection is usually required as well. (Source: Marc Ledwidge, Banff National Park Warden Service)

## **FALL ON ROCK, UNROPED**

### **Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Mount Indefatigable**

On September 5, Kananaskis Country rangers were informed that someone had fallen down the East Face of Mt. Indefatigable (2670 meters) from the ridge joining its two peaks. A helicopter was requested, and a search and rescue operation proceeded in bad weather conditions, involving several rangers and Kananaskis Emergency Medical Services. At 1519, about one hour after the initial report was received, J. A., a visitor from