

he was forced to traverse left across a wide snow bowl at the head of the main gully system. Apparently, to avoid the need to stop and get the crampons and ice ax out of his pack, he tried to follow a narrow, down-sloping ledge of dry rock. When he slipped and fell off, he landed on the hard snow below. Without his ice ax he was unable to self-arrest. He fell about 300 meters down the main gully, then slipped into a small moat and was covered by snow that had dislodged during his fall. He died of multiple trauma.

P.O. came to western Canada to climb. He had trained in the east and had obtained the proper equipment. The late spring conditions were likely frustrating to him, as they were to many. The south face of Cascade Mountain is one of the closest mountain climbs to downtown Banff. It is not the usual route to the top, but the angle is mostly moderate, so when P.O. found the step-kicking straightforward, his reconnaissance must have turned into an irresistible urge to bag his first Rockies summit. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service)

FALL ON ROCK, CARABINER FAILURE—PROBABLY CROSS-LOADED **Alberta, Banff National Park, Back of the Lake**

On July 29, A.L. was attempting to redpoint “Howard the Duck”, a 5.11a sport rock climb at the Lake Louise crags. He had clipped the first two bolts and placed a quick-draw on the third just below the crux. He felt unable to clip his rope into the third quick-draw and began to down-climb to minimize the distance he might fall. When his weight came onto the second quick-draw following his fall, the carabiner clipped into the bolt hanger failed. A.L. fell to the ground. Unfortunately, there was a log where he landed and he was impaled in the back by a branch of about ten centimeters thick and 15 centimeters long. The accident was reported almost immediately to Warden Service dispatch by cell phone. A.L. was evacuated by helicopter to the Banff Hospital by Warden Service rescue crews.

Analysis

It is speculated that the carabiner clipped to the bolt hanger flipped and became cross-loaded while A.L. was working on the difficult, overhanging moves. The carabiner was still in one piece with the gate attached at the hinge but the other end was blown open and had come off the hanger.

The victim was extremely lucky that the branch did not penetrate any vital organs. It entered his back behind his heart and became lodged between his shoulder blade and ribcage. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service)

HANDHOLD CAME OFF—FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION (BOLT) PULLED OUT **Alberta, Lady MacDonald, Stoneworks Crag**

On August 4, S. (20) was climbing a 5.12a sport route at a crag near Canmore. He clipped three bolts and moved some distance above the third bolt when a hold pulled off the rock and he fell. The top bolt ripped out, causing him to fall six meters to the ground. He shattered the bones in one foot and fractured the other, requiring eight hours of surgery. He was heli-slung to the Canmore Hospital. (Source: Natural Resources Service, Kananaskis Country)