

ax. There is no way to catch yourself as you go in on skis.

- Three people on any glacier are way better than two. On a known heavily crevassed glacier, three people should be considered mandatory.
- Bring a VHS radio and know how to use it. In the winter the margin of error is considerably smaller than on a summer trip.
- Bring walkie-talkies to communicate with the party on the outside.
- Bring a pair of mini ascenders. I am confident that I could have worked these in lieu of the prusiks and my injury. Working 5mm prusiks on a 8mm rope with knots under 250 pounds of tension is no picnic in freezing temperatures! (Source: R.M.)

FALL ON ICE, INATTENTION

Alberta, Banff National Park, Professor Falls

On March 20, after instructing an ice climbing session on this popular Grade 4 ice climb, J.M. tripped on easy terrain while descending to the second rappel. He fell over a six meter pitch and sustained a dislocated shoulder and a back injury. One member of the party walked out for help, and the victim was evacuated by heli-sling shortly thereafter by Warden Service rescue crews. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service)

Analysis

Care and attention are necessary even on easy ground, especially when one has crampons on. (Source: Nancy Hansen)

RAPPEL ERROR—INADEQUATE ANCHOR, WEATHER, CLIMBING ALONE

Alberta, Jasper National Park, Mount Snowdome, Slipstream

On the afternoon of March 24, M.G. and C.G. made their way up the Dome Glacier to establish a basecamp below Mount Snowdome. Their objective was to climb "Slipstream" (alpine grade VI, water ice grade 4+, 925 meters). This alpine ice climb forms most years on the east face of Mount Snowdome. The party awoke early and discussed plans. The weather was changing for the worse, and M.G. decided not to climb. C.G. decided to solo the route and departed camp at 0400. He took with him one ice screw and a 40-meter section of 8.5mm rope. His intended route down was the standard descent route to the south. At daybreak, M.G. observed his partner ascending the route.

By midday he was just below the top of the route. Throughout the morning the weather had continued to deteriorate with cloud build up and increased winds. At this time M.C. observed his partner starting to rappel the route. He saw a couple of rappels before the clouds descended and C.G. was obscured from view. About 30 minutes later M.C. observed a large avalanche coming out of the cloud and down the route. Fearing that his partner had been caught in the avalanche he quickly made his way back to the road and called for help. His call was patched through to the RCMP. The Jasper Warden Service was notified at 1630. Wardens on scene at 1650 spotted what they believed to be C.G. high on the climb continuing to make his way down.

However, high winds and poor visibility over a distance of five kilometers made it impossible to be absolutely certain that what they were viewing through