

their spotting scope was C.G. At 1744 the rescue helicopter arrived from Golden and flew to the route with rescuers on board. The body of C.G. was spotted on the glacier at the base of the climb approximately 900 meters below his last observed position at mid-day. At 1825 C.G.'s body was slung off the glacier to the staging area at the Icefield Center where an ambulance was waiting. C.G. was pronounced dead at the staging area.

### **Analysis**

C.G.'s body was found with the climbing rope passed through his belay device, a prusik attached and the ends of the rope tied together. All indications point to anchor failure being the likely cause of his fall. There was no Abalokov cord attached to his rope, which indicates that he may have been using a bollard or icicles to rappel off. He was found with his Abalokov hook, but his only ice screw was not on him when he arrived at the ambulance. C.G. was not found in avalanche debris, so whether the initial avalanche or subsequent unseen avalanches contributed to his fall is unknown. It is likely that C.G. decided to rappel the route due to strong winds and poor visibility on the summit ice cap. The ice cap is crevassed, so navigating to the descent route in poor visibility while climbing alone would have been very hazardous. The avalanche forecast for the day as issued by the Jasper Warden Service rated the avalanche danger in the alpine as high. (Source: Jasper National Park Warden Service, R.W.)

## **FALL ON SNOW, POOR POSITION**

### **Alberta, Jasper National Park, Parker Ridge**

On May 6, a group of mountaineers were practicing crevasse rescue at Parker Ridge. The group was working in roped teams of three. A person on one end of the rope would jump off a corniced ridge, while the other two people on the rope would arrest the fall and then perform the "rescue". A.L.'s group performed the rescue practice once successfully and then changed the order of the rope team to practice again. A.L. was facing away from the cornice when the person on the end of the rope jumped off. A.L. was spun around quickly and ended up with a spiral fracture in her lower leg. The rest of the group splinted her leg and then carried her out on a tarpaulin. (Source: A.L.)

### **Analysis**

This particular accident may have been prevented if A.L. had been facing the direction of the cornice and "victim". It is also possible that the group was getting "aggressive" in their practice, and the victim jumped farther than before, creating a significant sudden jerk on the rope. In a real crevasse fall, team members may not always be facing the right direction, but the rope should be kept tight enough between members to ensure there is no sudden and great force of pull on the rope. It is important even in practice to ensure that the rope is kept tight. (Source: Nancy Hansen)

## **FALL ON ROCK, POOR CONDITIONS**

### **Alberta, Mount McGillivray, Kahl Crack**

On July 16, D.W. was leading the third pitch of this 200 meter high 5.5 rock climb. The crack in which he was supposed to be climbing and placing gear