

ent leg of his journey, further away from the hut, the search for him would have been more complex. D.E. was lucky his injuries were not more debilitating, as he would have had no one to care for him or activate rescue services sooner. Fortunately, D.E. left a detailed route plan with his parents and strict instructions for when to call for a rescue if he was not out. (Source: Jasper National Park Warden Service, L.P.)

EXHAUSTION, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

Alberta, Banff National Park, Mount Temple, East Ridge

On August 10, a party of three was reported overdue to Warden Service dispatch. They had been about 30 hours on this alpine grade IV, 5.7 route when they were located at the start of the gullies that lead to the summit icecap. A Warden Service rescue crew was dropped off on the ridge and determined that the climbers were okay but exhausted and requesting evacuation. They were evacuated by heli-sling.

Analysis

The party underestimated the route finding and commitment factor on this moderately difficult alpine route. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service)

STRANDED, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

Alberta, Banff National Park, Mount Lefroy, Lemire Route

After 32 hours on this alpine grade IV, 5.7 route a party of two was reported overdue to Warden Service dispatch. They were located near the top of a rock buttress below the summit ridge and evacuated by heli-sling at their request.

Analysis

This is a seldom-climbed route with only cursory route information available. The party encountered difficult route finding, poor rock quality, and difficult climbing. On such alpine routes, guidebook gradings cannot always be taken at face value. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service)

STRANDED, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT

Alberta, Kananaskis Provincial Park, Mount Sir Douglas

On August 29, two climbers ascended Mount Sir Douglas via the East Ridge, alpine grade III, 5.6. Before beginning the route, they had decided they would descend the same way, instead of taking the longer but easier west ridge descent route. The climbers summited at a late hour, and decided to descend the west ridge after all. They bivouacked at a notch between the ridge and the glacier below and then attempted to descend the glacier the following day. The glacier was bare ice and steep enough to demand crampons, which the climbers did not have. They used their radio to call for a rescue. (Source: Kananaskis Country Alpine Specialists)

Analysis

It is important to minimize one's pack weight when attempting a big alpine route. However, one must not leave any essential items behind. These climbers took a big risk by leaving their crampons at home. (Source: Nancy Hansen)