

Robson or Resplendent. He made it to the col between the two mountains. During a violent storm his tent was destroyed and ice ax lost. Feeling he no longer had the necessary equipment to continue safely, he activated his personal locator beacon at 1300 on September 3. The signal was received by the Rescue Coordination Center, in Victoria, British Columbia. They notified the Mount Robson Park Rangers who in turn notified the Jasper National Park Warden Service at 1645. The Jasper Warden Service conducted an aerial search for C.G. and found him uninjured at the col at 1922.

Analysis

Mount Robson is a serious undertaking for a party of experienced climbers, let alone a solo climber with minimal climbing experience in the area. It is riddled with numerous hazards ranging from crevasses, to serac fall, to avalanches, to poor weather. A climber must be able to evaluate and select routes to negotiate these hazards. C.G. was warned of these hazards by a Robson Park Ranger before attempting the mountain. If C.G. had not attempted the mountain with other experienced mountaineers, he may have been able to retreat. C.G. was extremely fortunate to have not fallen into a crevasse or to have succumbed to one of the many other hazards of mountain travel. Fortunately, C.G. was carrying a device to activate a rescue, although it did take some time for his location to be pinpointed and then relayed to the appropriate rescue agency. A radio or satellite phone would have allowed him to communicate directly to rescue personnel. (Source: Jasper National Park Warden Service, L.P.)

FALL ON ICE, INATTENTION

British Columbia, Kootenay National Park, Haffner Creek

Haffner Creek is a popular ice climbing area with a number of new mixed climbs. On December 13, a group of mountain guides were doing some training. While ice "bouldering" five feet off the ground, R.O. fell. He landed on his feet on uneven ground, shattering his lower leg in the process. One of the other guides was able to contact the Warden Service by radio. He was evacuated by heli-sling to the highway.

Analysis

Even short falls can have serious consequences, especially when one has crampons on his/her feet. R.O.'s comments were as follows.

"I have been climbing ice extensively for the past eight years and this is the first fall that I have ever taken. The ice I was climbing when I fell was of a very easy grade. I think complacency was the cause of my accident. Stupid accidents like this one are not uncommon among experienced climbers. Climbers need to always be focused and aware, even when the climbing is easy and close to the ground." (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service and R.O.)

LOOSE ROCK

Ontario, Bon Echo, Ottawa Route

On July 21, I.G. was leading the third pitch of the "Ottawa Route" (5.8) at Bon Echo, which rises 100 meters straight up from Lake Mazinaw, when she called out to seconded C.G. that a large granite block had dislodged and was weigh-