

had sharp pain in my right shoulder, right hip and both ankles. My right hand was deeply lacerated, as well as the outside of my right ankle. I managed to stand up on my feet and S.H. lowered me for about three meters to a ledge. She undid the anchor and scrambled down to me. With my first aid kit, she made a large arm sling around my right arm and gave me another triangular for my chin. Then she covered me with my fleece and Goretex jacket. She put all the gear in the packs, coiled the rope, took my car keys, and went for rescue.

The helicopter came one hour after the call. I was lifted to Exshaw and then transported by road ambulance to Canmore.” (He was diagnosed with a fractured scapula and a small pneumothorax. He will make a full recovery.)

Analysis

In the words of T.L.: “Obviously we were off route, the climbing being more difficult than 5.5. Next time, we should back-track and try to find the proper way up, not trying to climb stuff harder than the actual grade of the route.” The protection which the leader thought was “better than nothing” in this case, was not. (Source: F.L., Dave Stephens)

STRANDED, POOR CONDITIONS

Alberta, Banff National Park, The Finger

On September 28, a party of two was reported overdue from a climb on the previous day. A search by Warden Service rescue crews was initiated and the party was located on the rappels on the north side of The Finger (II 5.5). They had spent the night on a small ledge. Overnight temperatures were in the -5 to -10 degree C range. The helicopter toed into a nearby ridge and a rescuer was dropped off to make voice contact with the party. They requested assistance. A party was inserted by heli-sling onto the summit and the climbers were raised back to the top. They were then evacuated by heli-sling from the summit.

Analysis

Although it is likely that the climbers could have continued the rappels down to the notch below, they were unaware that the third-class slabs below were covered in snow from early season snowfalls. It would have been very difficult to negotiate this terrain safely. (Source: Parks Canada Warden Service, Marc Ledwidge)

FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT

Alberta, Ghost River, Duveinafees

On October 8, around 1400, B.W. was leading the second pitch of Duveinafees (5.7) when his right foot slipped while bridging and lay-backing a corner. He pulled a fixed pin, a cam (2.5 Friend) and was caught by two fixed pins slung together. He fell about 25 meters hitting a ledge in a crouching stance about halfway into the fall. He landed two meters below and eight meters to the right of the belay. He sustained a femur fracture in the fall. His partner yelled for help and proceeded to lower his partner to the base of the cliff. He then