

## CANADA

### FALL ON ICE

#### **Alberta, Banff National Park, Cascade Mountain, Cascade Waterfall**

On January 3, a party of two was climbing on Cascade Waterfall (300 m. III WI3). Sometime between 1500 and 1600, the victim was leading final moves of the last pitch when he fell, injuring his ankles. His partner lowered him to the belay and they decided to retrieve ice screws before starting the descent. Some time was spent retrieving gear and the lowering out was slow. About 1800, the party used their cell phone to call one of their wives, who in turn contacted Warden Dispatch. A warden rescue party climbed to where patient was located below the first set of anchors. The preliminary survey indicated injury to the right ankle, but the patient was comfortable enough to continue with lowering out. Wardens set up a first lower of 100 metres, to the second rescue party, then a second lower of 150 metres to the base of the climb. The patient was loaded into the wheeled stretcher and wheeled to his personal vehicle. His climbing partner drove him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with a hairline fracture of his talus. The rescue was done at night with air temp at -32 EC. The moonlight was a big help.

#### **Analysis**

Lead falls while ice climbing often result in fractures to the lower limbs. In cold weather when the days are short, it is important to start early in the day so that there is some spare daylight in case something doesn't go well. The party may have underestimated the time that a series of lowers would require. (Source: Bradford White, Banff National Park Warden Service)

### FALL ON ICE

#### **Alberta, Banff National Park, Mount Bourgeau, Bourgeau Right-Hand**

On January 4, a party of two was climbing Bourgeau Right-Hand (310 m. IV WI 4R). This climb is often very thin on the first two pitches and difficult to protect. The leader was climbing second pitch and took a lead fall six metres above his third screw (clipped in with a screamer). The screw held but he was unsure if the screamer deployed. The leader fell about 15 metres and injured both ankles. One ankle was severely fractured. The party self evacuated to the Sunshine Ski Village parking lot. In addition to the fractures, the leader suffered frostbite to all toes, but no long term damage is expected.

#### **Analysis**

Lead falls with crampons frequently result in lower leg fractures. In this instance the party was concerned that they would be responsible for the cost of a rescue, so did not call for help. Rescue services are included in