

Analysis

SPOT beacons are becoming very popular. Unfortunately the details of the incident and sometimes the actual latitude and longitude of the incident are not properly communicated. This makes mounting an appropriate rescue response more difficult. Often the text message on the beacon has not been updated for the trip and is not appropriate. Placing no protection at the beginning of the climb guarantees that any fall will result in hitting the group and significantly increasing the potential for a serious injury. (Source: Brad White, Banff National Park Mountain Safety Specialist)

ROCK LEDGE BROKE OFF – FALLING ROCK HIT CLIMBING PARTNER **Alberta, Kananaskis Country, Mount Yamnuska**

On May 22, JK and A were climbing the Necromancer route (5.10a, eleven pitches) on Mount Yamnuska. JK was leading the second pitch and stepped on a ledge to start a traverse when the ledge broke off. A soccer ball-sized rock landed on A's foot breaking it. JK lowered off gear, tandem rappelled with A off the route, and splinted the foot and leg once at the base. A was heli-slung from the base by Kananaskis Country Public Safety Specialists. (Source: Kananaskis Country Public Safety Program)

(Canadian Editor's Note: Loose hand and footholds are not uncommon in the Canadian Rockies. This is a good example of the party being able to self-rescue and administer first aid while waiting for an organized evacuation.)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE COMMUNICATION, INADEQUATE BELAY – BELAYER NOT READY

Alberta, Canadian Rockies, Wicked Gravity Wall

On June 16, PH was sport climbing on the Wicked Gravity Wall at the Back of the Lake climbing area at Lake Louise, Banff National Park. He had done several routes and was climbing one last route to "cool down" before dark after a long afternoon/evening. After feeding the rope through the station, he neglected to inform his belayer that he was ready to be lowered and he just leaned back. The belayer was not holding the rope at the time and PH fell about 20-30 feet, striking a ledge with his feet on the way down. Eventually the Grigri belay device stopped him just before a ground fall, but he suffered a badly broken ankle. Rescuers responded in the dark and PH was lowered in a stretcher over the steep terrain and then wheeled to the ambulance in a stretcher.

FALL ON ROCK, OFF ROUTE, PROTECTION PULLED

Alberta, Kananaskis Country, Mount Yamnuska

On June 18, W and NB were climbing Grillmair's Chimney (5.6, 8 pitches)