

on Mount Yamnuska. W was leading and went off-route. NB lowered W on a single piton, which pulled free. W fell approximately eight metres, resulting in a compound fracture to the left ankle. NB splinted the ankle with an ice axe and then rappelled the route, ran down the trailhead, and then borrowed a cellphone to call 911. Kananaskis Country Public Safety Specialists responded where the injured climber was heli-slung off the route.

Analysis

W could not reach a bolt, and therefore in desperation placed a piton to be lowered on. The piton was not fully placed, and thus pulled. (Source: M. Koppang, G. Field, B. Duncan, Kananaskis Country Public Safety Program)

FALL ON ROCK – PROTECTION PULLED

Alberta, Kananaskis Country, Mount Indefatigable

On July 1, KT and MH were climbing the rock route Joy (5.5, 10 pitches) on Mount Indefatigable. KT was leading and built an anchor and was ready to belay MH. KT tested the anchor, which pulled out, then KT cart wheeled off the ledge and the back-up point pulled free. KT fell past MH, who held the fall. KT's helmet came off during the fall and he hit a ledge on the way down. KT came to rest hanging upside down and bleeding heavily. MH was able to call out for help. Nearby hikers contacted the Kananaskis Country emergency dispatcher. Kananaskis Country Public Safety Specialists heli-slung KT off the route where he was transferred to an air ambulance. (Source: Kananaskis Country Public Safety Program)

ROCKFALL FROM PARTY ABOVE, POOR POSITION

Alberta, Canadian Rockies, Abbott's Pass

On July 6, JPL was approaching Abbot's Pass hut from the Lake O'Hara side when a party above kicked off a very large loose rock (approximately 1.5 metres by one metre). The rock luckily split in half just before hitting JPL in the back and smashing his face into the rocks. An UIAGM mountain guide who witnessed the incident called for help and assisted JPL up to the hut where rescuers landed with the helicopter and took JPL to the ambulance.

Analysis

This approach was much more prone to loose rock this year with a fresh rockfall covering some of the approach. Following behind any party when there is likelihood that loose rocks may be dislodged is always risky. (Source: Brad White, Banff National Park Mountain Safety Specialist)

RAPPEL ERROR – FAULTY USE OF EQUIPMENT, STRANDED, INEXPERIENCE, POOR ROUTE RESEARCH

Alberta, Jasper National Park, Morrow Peak

On July 18, MJ and AB left the climbers parking lot at 0930 to climb Mor-

row Peak via the guide's route. Weather was good but deteriorating slowly by the afternoon with clouds, light winds, and sprinkles. They ascended to the top just below the upper treed bench. They were unaware of the hiking trail down in the treed bench and proceeded to rappel down the route using tree anchors. Their rappel set-up consisted of MJ using an ATC attached to himself with AB connected to him and his rappel device via a daisy chain and screw-lock carabiners. MJ controlled their descent. The carabiner connecting AB to the daisy chain was not locked. Fifteen feet into their second rappel down sloping and benched limestone, the carabiner opened and disconnected from the daisy chain. MJ caught AB with his arm before she could fall. They stopped, sat down, and called 911 using a cellphone. Jasper National Park Public Safety Specialists responded and heli-slung them out to the highway below.

Analysis

They had only been climbing four months. They had no helmets and minimal gear. Continuing on the rappel line down would have led them into much more serious terrain. They did not research the route adequately as they were unaware of the hiking trail down. Despite the situation they created for themselves, stopping and calling for assistance facilitated a positive outcome. (Source: G. Lemke, Public Safety Specialist, Jasper National Park)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY

Alberta, Kananaskis Country, Grassi Lakes

On July 25, two climbers were ascending a bolted route on the White Imperialist wall at Grassi Lakes. The lead climber fell from above the fourth bolt. The belay was using an ATC belay device but was unable to hold the leader fall as the rope burned her hand. The leader fell 20 feet landing on his tailbone. Kananaskis Country Public Safety Specialists evacuated the injured climber. (Source: Kananaskis Country Public Safety Program)

(Canadian Editor's Note: There was no indication that equipment failure or faulty use of equipment was a contributing factor.)

FALL ON ROCK, HEAVY PACKS, UNROPED

Alberta, Canadian Rockies, Mount Neptuak

On August 28, a party of seven set out on a club outing to traverse some of the ten peaks from west to east in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, Banff National Park. They had very large packs with bivouac and climbing gear. When nearing the summit of the first peak, Mount Neptuak, one of the party fell over backwards while trying to negotiate the 4th class terrain and tumbled through the large talus below, which, resulted in her breaking her arm. The trip leader called on his cellphone requesting a rescue.