

STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I REPORTED MOUNTAINEERING ACCIDENTS

	Number of Accidents Reported		Total Persons Involved		Injured		Fatalities	
	USA	CAN	USA	CAN	USA	CAN	USA	CAN
1951	15		22		11		3	
1952	31		35		17		13	
1953	24		27		12		12	
1954	31		41		31		8	
1955	34		39		28		6	
1956	46		72		54		13	
1957	45		53		28		18	
1958	32		39		23		11	
1959	42	2	56	2	31	0	19	2
1960	47	4	64	12	37	8	19	4
1961	49	9	61	14	45	10	14	4
1962	71	1	90	1	64	0	19	1
1963	68	11	79	12	47	10	19	2
1964	53	11	65	16	44	10	14	3
1965	72	0	90	0	59	0	21	0
1966	67	7	80	9	52	6	16	3
1967	74	10	110	14	63	7	33	5
1968	70	13	87	19	43	12	27	5
1969	94	11	125	17	66	9	29	2
1970	129	11	174	11	88	5	15	5
1971	110	17	138	29	76	11	31	7
1972	141	29	184	42	98	17	49	13
1973	108	6	131	6	85	4	36	2
1974	96	7	177	50	75	1	26	5
1975	78	7	158	22	66	8	19	2
1976	137	16	303	31	210	9	53	6
1977	121	30	277	49	106	21	32	11
1978	118	17	221	19	85	6	42	10
1979	100	36	137	54	83	17	40	19
1980	191	29	295	85	124	26	33	8
1981	97	43	223	119	80	39	39	6
1982	140	48	305	126	120	43	24	14
1983	187	29	442	76	169	26	37	7
1984	182	26	459	63	174	15	26	6
1985	195	27	403	62	190	22	17	3
1986	203	31	406	80	182	25	37	14

	Number of Accidents Reported		Total Persons Involved		Injured		Fatalities	
	USA	CAN	USA	CAN	USA	CAN	USA	CAN
1987	192	25	377	79	140	23	32	9
1988	156	18	288	44	155	18	24	4
1989	141	18	272	36	124	11	17	9
1990	136	25	245	50	125	24	24	4
1991	169	20	302	66	147	11	18	6
1992	175	17	351	45	144	11	43	6
1993	132	27	274	50	121	17	21	1
1994	158	25	335	58	131	25	27	5
1995	168	24	353	50	134	18	37	7
1996	139	28	261	59	100	16	31	6
1997	158	35	323	87	148	24	31	13
1998	138	24	281	55	138	18	20	1
1999	123	29	248	69	91	20	17	10
2000	150	23	301	36	121	23	24	7
2001	150	22	276	47	138	14	16	2
2002	139	27	295	29	105	23	34	6
2003	118	29	231	32	105	22	18	6
2004	160	35	311	30	140	16	35	14
2005	111	19	176	41	85	14	34	7
2006	109		227		89		21	
TOTALS	6,220	958	11,325	2003	5,247	715	1,394	292

TABLE II

Geographical Districts	1951-2005			2006		Total Persons Involved
	Number of Accidents	Deaths	Total Persons Involved	Number of Accidents	Deaths	
CANADA						
Alberta	520	142	1033			
British Columbia	317	119	641			
Yukon Territory	37	28	77			
New Brunswick	1	0	0			
Ontario	37	9	67			
Quebec	31	10	63			
East Arctic	8	2	21			
West Arctic	2	2	2			
Practice Cliffs ¹	20	2	36			
UNITED STATES						
Alaska	480	178	803	19	5	41
Arizona, Nevada						
Texas	87	18	153	3	0	7
Atlantic-North	933	146	1599	23	1	47
Atlantic-South	96	24	166	2	1	3
California	1243	290	2478	22	4	39
Central	133	16	215	1	1	2
Colorado	740	208	2255	15	4	33
Montana, Idaho						
South Dakota	78	31	124	1	1	2
Oregon	195	107	440	5	3	14
Utah, New Mexico	159	58	289	3	0	10
Washington	1028	317	851	8	0	16
Wyoming	546	127	984	7	1	13

¹This category includes bouldering, artificial climbing walls, buildings, and so forth. These are also added to the count of each province, but not to the total count, though that error has been made in previous years. The Practice Cliffs category has been removed from the U.S. data.

TABLE III

	1951-05 USA	1959-05 CAN.	2006 USA	2006 CAN.
Terrain				
Rock	4310	528	68	
Snow	2268	355	36	
Ice	254	158	5	
River	14	3	0	
Unknown	22	10	0	
Ascent or Descent				
Ascent	2853	587	73	
Descent	2192	371	35	
Unknown	248	13	1	
Other ^{N.B.}	7	0	0	
Immediate Cause				
Fall or slip on rock	3407	290	60	
Slip on snow or ice	971	207	19	
Falling rock, ice, or object	610	137	4	
Exceeding abilities	535	32	5	
Illness ¹	375	26	7	
Stranded	329	53	6	
Avalanche	284	127	2	
Exposure	265	14	5	
Rappel Failure/Error ²	274	47	10	
Loss of control/glissade	199	17	7	
Nut/chock pulled out	196	9	10	
Failure to follow route	176	30	3	
Fall into crevasse/moat	153	50	6	
Piton/ice screw pulled out	95	13	0	
Faulty use of crampons	95	6	7	
Lightning	46	7	0	
Skiing ³	53	11	2	
Ascending too fast	65	0	0	
Equipment failure	14	3	1	
Other ⁴	413	37	25	
Unknown	61	10	0	
Contributory Causes				
Climbing unroped	987	165	17	
Exceeding abilities	885	202	10	
Placed no/inadequate protection			15	
Inadequate equipment/clothing	664	70	8	
Weather	462	67	5	
Climbing alone	389	69	5	
No hard hat	327	71	10	

	1951-05 USA	1959-05 CAN	2006 USA	2006 CAN
Contributory Causes (continued)				
Nut/chock pulled out	199	32	0	
Inadequate belay	197	28	5	
Poor position	166	20	2	
Darkness	140	21	1	
Party separated	115	12	2	
Failure to test holds	97	32	3	
Piton/ice screw pulled out	86	13	0	
Failed to follow directions	73	12	0	
Exposure	59	16	5	
Illness ¹	40	9	0	
Equipment failure	11	7	0	
Other ⁴	256	100	4	
Age of Individuals				
Under 15	1243	12	0	
15-20	1258	203	8	
21-25	1358	257	30	
26-30	1257	211	16	
31-35	1051	114	12	
36-50	1177	143	30	
Over 50	217	31	9	
Unknown	1947	530	22	
Experience Level				
None/Little	1739	304	20	
Moderate (1 to 3 years)	1575	354	20	
Experienced	1855	440	47	
Unknown	1983	559	42	
Month of Year				
January	218	25	6	
February	202	55	4	
March	299	68	4	
April	397	39	4	
May	882	62	18	
June	1026	70	18	
July	1109	254	12	
August	1011	184	16	
September	1155	75	10	
October	439	42	9	
November	184	20	4	
December	93	24	4	
Unknown	17	1	0	
Type of Injury/Illness (Data since 1984)				
Fracture	1171	223	48	
Laceration	670	71	15	

Type of Injury/Illness (Data since 1984) (continued)	1951-05	1959-05	2006	2006
	USA	CAN	USA	CAN
Abrasion	321	76	9	
Bruise	450	83	12	
Sprain/strain	314	33	17	
Concussion	215	28	10	
Hypothermia	152	16	2	
Frostbite	120	12	5	
Dislocation	113	16	4	
Puncture	43	13	1	
Acute Mountain Sickness	42	0	1	
HAPE	68	0	3	
HACE	24	0	1	
Other ⁵	302	49	13	
None	224	188	14	

^{N.B.} Some accidents happen when climbers are at the top or bottom of a route, not climbing. They may be setting up a belay or rappel or are just not anchored when they fall. (This category created in 2001. The category unknown is primarily because of solo climbers.)

¹These illnesses/injuries, which led directly or indirectly to the accident, include: severe ischemia & coronary occlusion, HAPE, HACE, AMS, frostbite, pneumonia, corneal abrasion, burns (2), panic attack, mental breakdown, hypothermia, myocardial infarction, and fatigue (4).

²These include inadequate anchors, rappelled off the end of the rope, uneven ropes, harness loop broke, inattention by belayers when lowering.

³This category was set up originally for ski mountaineering. Backcountry touring or snowshoeing incidents—even if one gets avalanched—are not in the data.

⁴These include: unable to self-arrest (5), lowering errors (5), late start (3) hand- or foot-hold broke off (5), rope-drag, disappeared, fuel bottle blew up, rope stuck in crack, via ferrata, weighted leg incorrectly—so dislocated knee, climbing rope under leg while leading—so climber turned upside down in fall, jumped off boulder, client falls into another client on fixed rope (Denali), failed to follow avalanche advisory.

⁵These include: severe ischemia & coronary occlusion, pneumonia, corneal abrasion, burns—fuel bottle explosion (2) and rope (2), panic attack, mental breakdown, hypothermia, myocardial infarction, and fatigue

(Editor's Note: Under the category "other," many of the particular items will have been recorded under a general category. For example, the climber who dislodges a rock that falls on another climber would be coded as Falling Rock/Object. A climber who has a hand- or foot-hold come loose and falls would be coded as Fall On Rock and Other—and most often includes Failure To Test Holds.)