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ulty walking. At

1630 an NPS patrol that had reached the summit ridge that afternoon caught up with Walshe and O'Connor during their descent. Ranger Michael Nash contacted the 14,200-foot NPS camp and relayed Walshe's condition.

Nash, his two patrol members, and O'Connor used short rope and running belay techniques to lower Walshe to Denali Pass. Walshe remained ataxic, stumbling and falling frequently, and was unable to care for himself during the three hour descent to Denali Pass. At Denali Pass an RMI guided group caught up with the lowering party and assisted with the traverse from the pass by setting additional anchors. At 2000 the NPS camp contacted several other guides located at the 17,200 feet and asked for assistance. Several guides ascended to the Denali Pass traverse and began setting fixed lines. Walshe was lowered down the fixed lines and arrived at 17,200 feet at 2400. Walshe was stabilized, evaluated, and found to be suffering from high altitude cerebral edema (HACE). Walshe was treated with Dexamethasone as per protocol, hydrated, and observed throughout the night. The following day, with the assistance of his three other expedition members, Walshe descended to the 14,200-foot camp where he was again evaluated and treated by NPS personnel. Walshe remained at 14,200 feet for 48 hours and completed the descent to basecamp with his team, returning to Talkeetna on June 19.

#### **Analysis**

Neither You or Walshe reported having AMS symptoms prior to their summit day making high altitude pulmonary edema and cerebral edema unpredictable factors with the potential to cause disaster in the high mountains. All groups were fortunate that climbers in the area were able to assist in the descent from 19,000 feet. (Source: Billy Shott, Mountaineering Ranger)

### **FALL INTO CREVASSE, EXCEEDING ABILITIES**

#### **Alaska, Mount McKinley, West Buttress**

On the morning of July 5 at approximately 0100 the "Death March 2000" expedition left basecamp to begin a climb of Mount McKinley. At 0330 Kelly Thomas (35) fell into a crevasse on the main Kahiltna Glacier at 6,800 feet. Thomas initially fell only to his waist, at which point he removed his pack and pushed it away from him. He then fell into the crevasse a distance of approximately 30 feet. Thomas' partner, Tim Lapham (33), arrested the fall, set up an anchor and attempted to haul Thomas out. Thomas was unable to ascend due to improperly tying his ascension system into his harness prior to falling. Lapham could make very little progress due to the amount of rope drag in the system. At 0430 Lapham contacted Annie Duquette at basecamp via the CB radio and requested assistance. Ranger Meg Perdue was awakened by the radio traffic and requested more information from the team as to location and injuries. Lapham was unsure of his exact location, but stated the Kahiltna Glacier two hours out from basecamp. Thomas was apparently uninjured.

At 0445 Perdue contacted Daryl Miller and advised him of the situation. It was determined that Perdue and Jamail would prepare to leave on a ground rescue, Miller would assess the possibility for air ops support and call back

within 30 minutes. At 0515, Miller called back that air ops were not possible due to weather conditions. Perdue was advised to go ahead with ground operations. At 0545 Perdue and Jamail left basecamp, where it was raining heavily with moderate winds. By 0700 they had reached the party and were assessing the situation. Perdue lowered a jacket to Thomas who was complaining of becoming cold and no longer shivering. Jamail and Perdue set up an anchor and 3:1 haul system on a separate rope, prepared a new lip and lowered a bight of rope to Thomas. Thomas clipped into this second rope and Jamail and Perdue were able to haul him out by 0730. By 0815 "Death March 2000" was heading back towards basecamp, arriving there at 1145.

#### Analysis

The major contributing factor to this incident was inexperience. The size of the party, the time they chose to climb, the way they had set up their rope system and subsequent rescue systems all point to an unfortunate lack of experience. The party had decided to attach two ropes together to increase the distance between them in the event of a crevasse fall, as a result they had approximately 150 feet between them. This became an impractical distance due to the amount of rope-drag if a haul system was needed and which left each of them carrying a coil of rope much too short to be useful. Though Lapham appeared to have set a reasonable anchor, the rope had cut so far into the lip of the crevasse that it should have been obvious that it would be impossible to haul his partner out. To this team's credit, they did show the good judgment to turn around once they realized the seriousness of the conditions they were encountering and decided to try their climb again another time. (Source: Meg Perdue, Mountaineering Ranger)

### FALL ON ROCK, ROPE SEVERED BY FALLING ROCK

#### Alaska, Portage Glacier

I am sorry to report the death of Steve Garvey (40) on August 13. He was well known, experienced, and a much-liked Alaskan climber. Garvey, as he was known by all, was a friend of AMRG, a close personal friend, an occasional climbing partner and a seven-year employee of my company.

Garvey had completed a morning climb Friday with partner Matt Howard and was leading a second climb at noon when Howard noticed the safety rope go slack. Howard turned and saw Garvey hit the rock outcrop on which he was standing and roll a few feet down a shale slope. Garvey died when his rope was cut during a short leader fall. He fell over 100 feet to the ground.

Garvey was wearing a helmet and was briefly conscious after the fall. When his partner arrived at his side only seconds later, Garvey whispered, "What happened?" His face then quickly blanched and he lost consciousness. CPR efforts were ineffective and did not revive him. It appears Garvey had a flail chest among other internal injuries that may have caused massive internal bleed-

pioneered. His partner Garvey was possibly a point on the route back below the previous was cut in half only.

The rocks on the known for being sharp in this area and remember otherwise easy layb edges sliced his fingers (Group)

### PROTECTION PULL STICK TO A SCHEDULE

#### California, Yosemite

Craig (25) had severed May 29, he and his partner climbing the first pitch Capitan.

Craig led 30-40 corner, and placed a 15 feet further right. He was able to place then Brent lowered he clipped his etrier.

Craig climbed two level of his pivot point pieces so he hadn't looked solid. He topped copperhead support pendulumed left, pulled as he continued swinging right facing corner wall but by the time Brent was coming to regain consciousness a cell phone.

The Park Service got the scene 30 minutes later. Craig in a vacuum boot was able to land at the talus to the ambulance. He was treated for two fractures. His shoulder was dislocated. The copperhead fallin-