

# **Rescue Dynamics – Introduction To Mountaineering**

## **Part 1 – Basic Rock**

2007 Meeting Details & First Morning Instructions

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The meeting time and place for the course is 8:30 am on the first morning of each respective course at the Morro Slabs parking lot. This is located along Highway 16 east of Jasper where the highway crosses the Athabasca River. Look for one of three vehicles; white cargo van - CYM 044; black Toyota Forerunner - VE6 MTN; brown camper van - WJK 864. In case of emergency, you can try contacting us by cell phone on the first morning of the course at (780) 916-7951. Cell service is sporadic here. Try more than once.

Appended to this document is basic information on how to find accommodations near our climbing sites. Our climbing will be done east of Jasper between Jasper and Hinton. Common campsites that have been used by students in the past include Folding Mountain (outside of the park to the east of the park gates), Whistler (closest to Jasper) and Wapiti (next closest to Jasper) each of which have showers. More primitive camping is found at Pocahontas and Snaring Campgrounds. Motels and other accommodations can be found at the Folding Mountain Resort or in the townsite of Jasper.

Be sure when you meet the group at 08:30 that you have finished breakfast, you have gas in your vehicle, your lunch is packed and your pack is packed with the exception of group items of equipment. You should be all ready to go.

The first items of business will be a bit of paperwork. We will require that everyone sign a copy of the waiver that will be witnessed by your instructor. The Association of Canadian Mountain Guides under the advice of their legal counsel has recommended that we undertake this practice. Given that most of the waivers are sent via fax, email, etc. and are often incomplete or illegible we have decided to comply with their recommendation.

If you paid by VISA or MasterCard over the phone, by fax or electronically we will also require an imprint of your credit card together with your signature so that we have an original copy in our files. This reduces fraud but even more importantly reduces the price of your course because this practice allows the credit card company to charge us a lower rate for their services.

After the paperwork is completed the group will travel to the location for the first day of climbing. Your instructor will likely choose to hand out equipment at the parking lot near the climbing site. You will be given a selection of personal and group gear that you be responsible for during the course. It must be returned in good condition at the end of the course. You may also be required to carry a rope.

All of the climbing is done in Jasper National Park. You must have a valid Park Vehicle Group Pass or Personal Pass to attend this course, as we are traveling and climbing in National Park areas. Your Pass also entitles you to mountain rescue service should a

mishap occur. Without it you may be liable for the cost of any technical rescue. Be sure to purchase one when you first enter the Park if you do not already have one. It is MANDATORY. The Park Pass does not cover ambulance, hospital or other related expenses, for which you require your own medical insurance.

The first day will most likely be spent doing knots, ropework, introductory climbing and rappelling at *Morro Slabs*. This popular climbing area may be shared with other groups. You are in a National Park and it belongs to us all! Please share the area and treat it with respect. Don't litter and pick up any litter you may see.



*To get to the Morro Slabs Parking Lot from the East (Hinton or Edmonton):* Drive west along Highway 16 and enter Jasper National Park. Continue along Highway 16 for about 20 minutes until just before the highway crosses the Athabasca River. Just near the water's edge (50 to 100 meters from the river) on the south side of the road there is a small paved

parking lot. You will be along a section of highway posted at 70 km/h. If you cross the Athabasca River you have gone a little too far.

*To get to Morro Slabs Parking Lot from Jasper:* Drive east on Highway 16 (toward Hinton) for about 20 km. Immediately after crossing the Athabasca River on the south side of the road is a small paved parking.

In the event of rain or other foul weather your instructor may decide on an alternate location or conduct knot tying and related activities in one of the picnic shelters at the campground or perhaps under a tarp or in the trees near Morro Slabs.

If the weather is good on the second day of the course we will move to a new location. If the weather is poor we may return to Morro Slabs or another location. Your instructor will advise you where to meet at the end of the first day.

The normal location for the second day is Hidden Valley. This is another fairly popular rock climbing venue but it is far more expansive than Morro Slabs. It has over 100 climbs that vary in length from 20 meters to 150 meters. It takes about 45 minutes of walking uphill to get to where we will start our climbing. Given good weather and a strong group, the intention will be to do a multi-pitch climb in the morning followed by more top-roped climbing and rappelling in the afternoon.

Given good weather, the meeting time and place for day two is usually 08:00 at the Hidden Valley Parking Lot. It is located about half way between Folding Mountain and Morro Slabs. *To get to Hidden Valley from Jasper:* Drive east toward Hinton for 36 km. On the east side of the road is a large paved parking lot bordered by ponds on each side.



*To get there from Hinton or Folding Mountain:* Follow Highway 16 into Jasper Park. Continue past the Pocohontas Warden Station and Pocohontas Bungalows. Stay on Highway 16, don't turn off anywhere. In a few minutes the imposing face of Roche Miette is on your left and the speed limit drops to 70 kph. The next large paved parking lot on your left (East) bordered by ponds on each side is where you want to be.

Once you are there Syncline ridge is visible in the background (see photo above). Roche Miette is no longer visible once you are at the Parking Lot. Look for your instructor!

If you have any further questions, please call (780) 461-5040 or email us at [rescuedynamicsinfo@telusplanet.net](mailto:rescuedynamicsinfo@telusplanet.net) or visit the website at [www.rescueDynamics.ca](http://www.rescueDynamics.ca)

## **Rescue Dynamics – Introduction To Mountaineering Part 2 Basic Snow & Ice Climbing**

2007 Meeting Details & First Morning Instructions © 2007 Cyril Shokoples

The meeting time and place for the course is 8:00 am on the first morning of the course at the parking lot just outside of the new Columbia Icefields Information Centre atop where the old Columbia Icefields Chalet once stood. It is the only large building in the area. This is located a little over an hour south of Jasper on highway 93. Look for one of three vehicles; black Toyota Forerunner- VE6 MTN; brown camper van - WJK 864; white cargo van – CYM 044. In case of dire emergency, you can leave a message on my cell phone on the morning of the course at (780) 916-7951. There is no cell service here so do not expect a response!



Be sure when you meet the group at 08:00 that you have finished breakfast, you have gas in your vehicle (closest gas station is Saskatchewan Crossing), your lunch is packed and your pack is packed with the exception of group items of equipment. You should be all ready. Have clothing for cold weather and/or rain. This is the Icefields!

The first items of business will be a bit of paperwork. We will require that everyone sign a copy of the waiver that your instructor will witness. The Association of Canadian Mountain Guides under the advice of their legal counsel has recommended that we undertake this practice. Given that most of the waivers are sent via fax, email, etc. and are often incomplete or illegible we have decided to comply with their recommendation.

If you paid by VISA or MasterCard over the phone, by fax or electronically we will also require an imprint of your credit card together with your signature so that we have an original copy in our files. This reduces fraud but even more importantly reduces the price of your course because this practice allows the credit card company to charge us a lower rate for their services.

After the paperwork is completed the group will travel to the location for the first day of instruction. Your instructor may choose to hand out equipment at the Icefields Chalet or possibly at the parking lot near the climbing site. You will be given a selection of personal and group gear that you be responsible for during the course. It must be returned in good condition at the end of the course. You may also be required to carry a rope.

All of the climbing is done in Jasper and Banff National Parks. You must have a valid Park Vehicle Group Pass or Personal Pass to attend this course, as we are traveling and climbing in National Park areas. Your Pass also entitles you to mountain rescue service should a mishap occur. Without it you may be liable for the cost of any technical rescue. Be sure to purchase one when you first enter the Park if you do not already have one. It is MANDATORY. The Park Pass does not cover ambulance, hospital or other related expenses, for which you require your own medical insurance.

On Basic courses the first day will be spent reviewing knots, ropework, introductory snow skills and possibly crevasse rescue most likely at *Parkers Ridge*. This may change depending upon conditions. This hiking and practice area may be shared with other groups. You are in a National Park and it belongs to us all! Please share the area and treat it with respect.



To get to Parkers Ridge you drive South from the Icefields Chalet for about 20 minutes until just before the Hilda Creek Hostel. If you pass the Hilda Creek Hostel you have gone too far. The parking lot is on the left (photo). The practice area is about thirty minutes away. In the event of rain or other foul weather your instructor may decide on an alternate location or conduct knot tying and related activities in one of the picnic shelters at a nearby campground or perhaps under a tarp or in the trees near Parkers Ridge.

On Intermediate courses the instructor may choose another location to conduct a skills review. The instructor will advise you of the staging area location when you meet.

On the second day of the course you will move to a new location. Your instructor will give you the meeting time and place for day two at the end of the first day. The focus on the second day is usually ice related skills including the use of crampons and ice screws. You may get another opportunity to practice crevasse rescue.



Given good weather and a strong group, the final day of the course will be an attempt at a summit climb. We may attempt A2, a 10,000 foot peak near the boundary of Jasper and Banff parks or we may try Mt. Athabasca. Depending on the level of the course, prevailing conditions and participant skill levels, your route may vary. In poor weather or bad conditions we may attempt Boundary Peak instead.

Climbing snow and ice peaks requires early starts to capitalize on good conditions in the cooler part of the day. The summit day will usually require a meeting time at the appropriate parking lot of around 04:00 AM. Your guide / instructor will give you the exact meeting time and place the day before the climb as it will depend upon day to day conditions. If the weather, conditions or group readiness are deemed by the guides to be inappropriate or unsafe then alternate activities will be planned (usually skills practice). Climbing big peaks have inherent dangers and the guides must be free to make appropriate decisions without any outside pressure. They also have the right to turn back for any group management, safety or time related concern at any time on a climb. Their decision to climb or not is final. The summit is NOT a guarantee.

If you have any further questions, please call (780) 461-5040 or email us at [rescuedynamicsinfo@telusplanet.net](mailto:rescuedynamicsinfo@telusplanet.net) or visit the website at [www.rescueDynamics.ca](http://www.rescueDynamics.ca)

## Camping and Accommodation Options for Rescue Dynamics Courses in Jasper National Park (updated April 16, 2007)

For access to listings of hotels, motels and hostels in Jasper National Park visit:

[http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/visit2\\_e.asp#Accomodations](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/visit2_e.asp#Accomodations)

### Jasper National Park Selected Campgrounds - 2007

Campground reservations can be made at Jasper National Park in the following campgrounds: Whistlers, Wapiti, Wabasso, Pocahontas, For details visit: [http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/visit19\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/visit19_E.asp)

Campground	Location from Jasper town site	Open	Close	PWS	ELEC	UNS	PRIM	SHO
Whistlers	3.5 km south	May 4	Oct 8	77	100	604		X
Wapiti	5.4 km south	May 18	May 21		40	322		X
		June 15	Sep 3		40	322		X
Wapiti Winter	5.4 km south	Oct 08	May 9 2008		40	53		
Wabasso	16.5 km south	June 21	Sep 3			228		
Pocahontas	45 km east	May 18	Oct 8			140		
Snaring River	13 km east	May 18	Sep 17				66	
Columbia Icefield	106 km south	May 18	Oct 8				33	
Wilcox Creek	107.5 km south	June 08	Sep 10				46	

**PWS:** Power, Water, Sewer

**ELEC:** Electricity

**UNS:** no hook-ups, flush toilets

**PRIM:** dry toilets

**SHO:** showers

### Folding Mountain Resort (East of Jasper Park east gates)

In addition to the above noted campgrounds and facilities in Jasper Park, many students have stayed at the Folding Mountain Resort in the past. Folding Mountain Resort has serviced and un-serviced RV and tent campsites, motel rooms and bungalows. Folding Mountain is located west of Hinton, outside of Jasper National Park, just east of the Jasper Park East gates. Reservations can be made by calling 1-866-475-3737. Basic information can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.albertadirectory.net/foldingmtn/>