

News Release

Carlyle Norman Killed in a Climbing Accident in Patagonia

Canmore, Alberta, January 18, 2012 - The friends and family of Carlyle Norman are saddened to announce that Carlyle has been killed while climbing in Patagonia, Argentina. Her partner, Cian Brinker is uninjured. The pair were climbing a difficult route called "Last Gringo Standing", a thirteen pitch 5.11, located on Aguja Saint-Exupéry, a 2558 m peak on the Fitzroy Massif.

The accident occurred late in day on Sunday, January 15. One rope-length from the first (false) summit, Carlyle was struck by rockfall and sustained serious head injuries. Cian spent two hours on a ledge with Carlyle, who was unconscious, before making the difficult decision to descend alone for help. Cian was met by other climbers on the glacier below and helped back to basecamp.

On Monday, January 16, with several hours of light remaining, a team of climbers and a Red Bull helicopter flew up to assess the situation. Carlyle was located on the ledge, but the helicopter was unable to land.

The following day, Tuesday, January 17, a team of very strong climbers was dropped at the base of Saint-Exupéry at first light. They climbed through the day and into the night in a heroic effort to reach Carlyle. They abandoned their attempt in the middle of the night due to deteriorating weather and conditions.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Carlyle, too young at just 29 years old. She was a beautiful, spirited woman, loved by many in the Bow Valley and beyond.

Special thanks are extended to the many climbers, locals and Red Bull team members in Patagonia who extended themselves well beyond what could be expected. Additional thanks to Joshua Lavigne, Grant Statham, Sharon Wood and the many other friends and family members who have shown their support. We deeply appreciate everyone's efforts to help Carlyle and Cian, and are reminded again of the closeness and strong bonds in the mountain community.

Cian and Carlyle were the recipients of the 2011 John Lauchlan Memorial Award, and their primary objective in Patagonia was to complete a new route on Aguja Bifida.

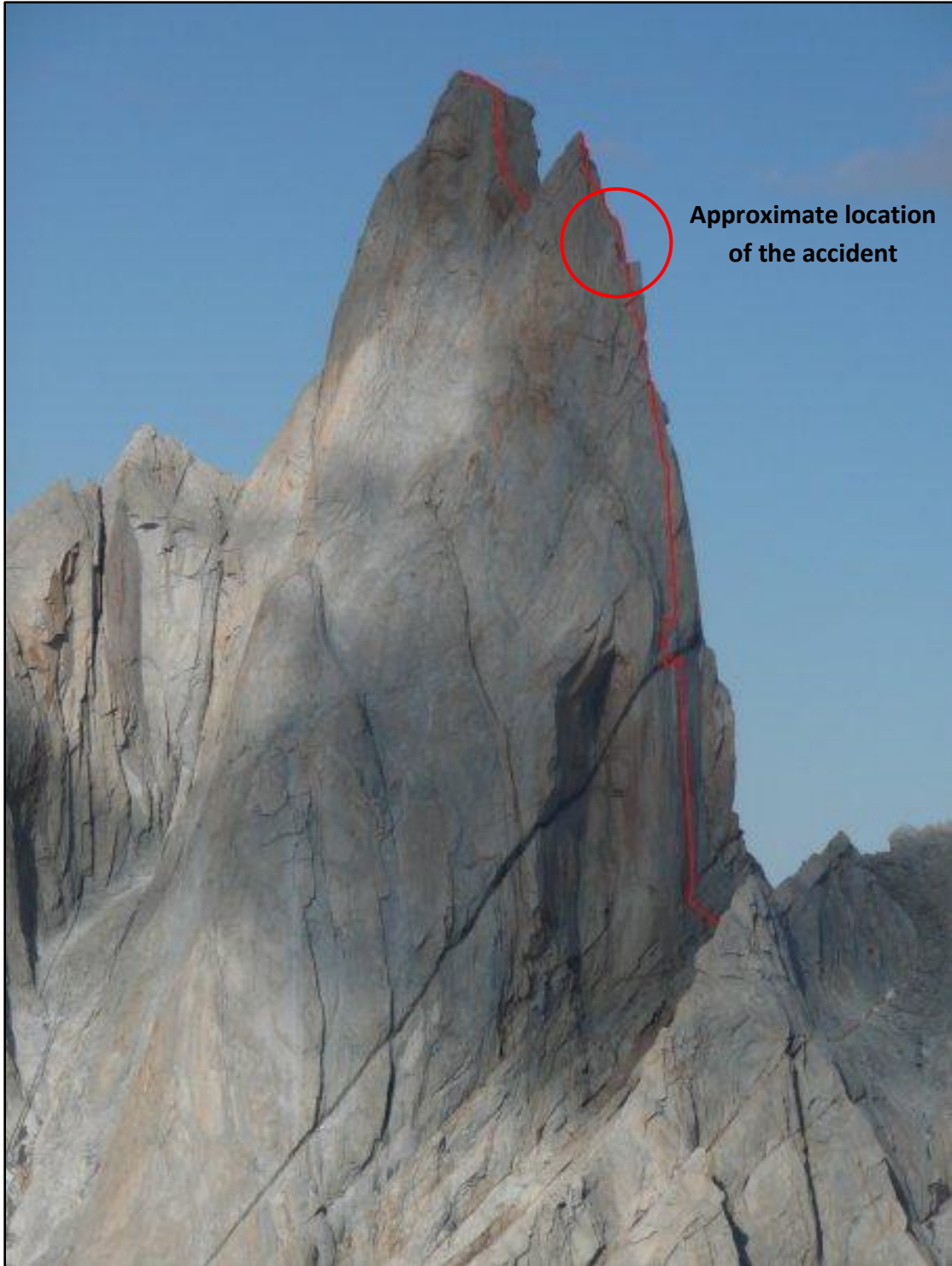
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Information:

Grant Statham: 403 762 1568

Sharon Wood: 403 678 2091

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Aguja Saint-Exupéry, 2558 meters, Patagonia, Argentina

Last Gringo Standing is marked with the red line *(source: Mountain Project)*

For more information on the climb:

<http://www.pataclimb.com/climbingareas/chalten/fitzgroup/exupery/last.html>

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October 5, 1982 – January 15, 2012

