



Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

Incident Report 1991

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MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE

ENGLAND AND WALES

INCIDENT REPORT 1991

1991 again shows increases of both reported incidents and of fatalities on our hills and moorland:-

<u>Summary</u>	1991	1990	Average over last 10 years
Incidents	687	675	493
Fatalities	65	47	50
Injured	465	462	377

The increase of fatalities of rock/ice snow climbing is the worrying feature of the 1991 figures, there has been two fatalities and five accidents causing injuries whilst "scrambling" which are included in the rock/ice climbing numbers. Most of the scrambling accidents have occurred to solo and often un-helmeted scramblers obviously preventative and educational action is indicated, as also is action to reduce the fatalities and injuries to our rock/ice climbers.

It is also essential to still bear in mind the fact that well over 50% of fatal incidents are of the "non-mountain" type (39 in 1991).

The dramatic increase over the years of the involvement of our English and Welsh teams on "non-mountain" incidents appears to be related to the following:

- a) Teams are being requested and are of course responding to calls for assistance by the Police, Social Services etc to give help with their specialised transport when bad weather conditions prevent Ambulances etc reaching outlying areas to deal with emergencies, to assist on localised searches in built up areas for aged wanderers from hospitals etc, or for missing children - of the latter, most tragically, two requests from the Police to aid in the search for missing children resulted in the two children being found murdered.
- b) Teams are also being called out more frequently on false alarms - mostly with good intent. This increases the number of recorded team call outs.
- c) The increasing numbers of mountain bikes, para/hang gliders, motorcycle scramblers on our fells and moors have also contributed their accident figures to our totals. To date no fatalities have been reported.

Injuries:-

The number of injured casualties has increased by about 33% over the past 10 years. One of the reasons put forward for this increase in team involvement has been that in the past people suffering minor injuries either got themselves, or were helped by passers-by, down for medical help - today with the increased, coverage and effectiveness of teams they are being involved more readily and in some cases by their attention have prevented serious medical complications.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE - ENGLAND & WALES

MOUNTAIN INCIDENT REPORT 1991

TYPE	Lake Dist	N.E. Eng	York Dales	Mid Pen	Peak Dist	N. Wales	S. Wales	S.W. Eng	Total 1991	Total 1990	Total 1989	Total 1982
ROCK CLIMBING	26 30 (6)	4 4	2 2	1 1	16 16 (2)	11 11 (2)	0 0	10 10 (1)	70 74 (11)	87 81 (4)	61 63 (7)	40 44 (4)
SNOW/ICE CLIMBING	13 16	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 2 (1)	4 4 (1)	0 0	0 0	18 22 (2)	3 3 (1)	5 7	4 4
FELL WALKING APR / OCT	120 120 (13)	12 14 (1)	12 12 (1)	3 2 (1)	18 19 (1)	38 41 (2)	3 3	8 8 (1)	214 219 (18)	243 262 (14)	229 241 (21)	105 112 (10)
FELL WALKING NOV / MAR	36 36 (3)	5 7	4 4 (2)	5 5	9 12 (1)	10 14 (4)	7 9 (2)	4 11	80 98 (12)	60 70 (4)	96 104 (7)	41 45 (6)
SEARCHES INJURED	6 6 (1)	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 6	3 7 (1)	7 8 (2)	2 4	19 31 (4)	34 34 (3)	36 44 (8)	26 38 (9)
SEARCHES NON-INJURED	31 43	13 54	5 12	5 8	6 10	25 41	15 48	25 46	125 262	101 216	104 263	86 213
CRAFAST UNHURT	38 41	0 0	0 0	1 2	0 0	17 33	0 0	2 3	58 79	19 26	27 43	16 22
NON-MOUNTAIN	25 26 (4)	19 19 (3)	7 4 (1)	13 10 (3)	11 7 (1)	11 8 (3)	13 8 (2)	4 4 (1)	103 86 (18)	133 132 (21)	49 51 (12)	32 46 (13)
TOTAL INCIDENTS	295	53	30	28	62	119	45	55	687	675	607	350
TOTAL FATALITIES	27	4	4	4	5	13	6	3	65	47	55	42
TOTAL INJURED	208	40	18	18	51	72	22	34	465	462	455	249
PEOPLE INVOLVED	318	98	34	28	71	159	76	86	870	835	524	524
HELICOPTER RESCUE SEARCH	27 19	3 8	NR NR	2 1	4 6	62 19	3 10	2 6	103 69	101 36	90 32	38 13
SARDA	33	13	3	6	8	28	8	13	112	96	78	35

Ski-ing - 2 injured in 1991

The top figure is the number of incident, the middle figure the people involved and the bottom figure (in brackets) the fatalities.

FREQUENCY OF INJURIES - ENGLAND AND WALES 1991

Type	Fell Walking	Fell Walking Snow / Ice	Rock Climb'g	Snow / Ice Climb'g	Non-Mount'n	Totals 1991	Totals 1990	Totals 1989	Totals 1988	Totals 1987	Totals 1986
Lower Leg/Foot	80	14	11	5	7	117	152	128	97	97	94
Upper Leg	28	5	6	1	3	43	43	29	27	28	13
Pelvis/Spine	6	1	8	2	3	20	20	23	16	12	13
Chest	3	0	0	0	1	4	12	5	9	9	5
Back											
- Bruising	4	0	0	1	1	15	18	8	9	13	14
- Fracture	1	0	0	1	1	3	3	6	4	7	5
Internal	1	1	2	0	1	5	4	9	9	6	5
Arm/Shoulder	8	2	5	1	9	25	16	22	21	16	12
Head - Fatal											
No Helmet	3	2	4	1	3	13	5	1	8	10	3
Helmet Worn	0	2	4	0	0	6	3	14	4	3	15
Head Injury											
No Helmet	13	6	11	3	7	40	36	14	9	15	16
Helmet Worn	0	0	5	2	0	7	7	29	29	0	28
Multiple Abrasions	2	3	2	1	2	10	8	11	8	8	7
Exhaustion											
- Summer	19	0	0	0	0	19	31	33	22	21	24
- Winter	11	2	0	0	0	13	7	9	9	19	5
Hypothermia Fatal											
- Summer	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	3
- Winter	3	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	3	2
Hypothermia -Non-Fatal											
- Summer	9	0	0	0	3	12	16	20	11	26	12
- Winter	11	9	0	0	2	22	11	14	10	20	24
Heart Attack											
- Fatal	24	2	0	0	0	26	13	20	17	18	20
- Non Fatal	10	3	0	0	0	13	6	7	10	20	24
Illness	28	2	0	0	4	34	33	29	27	30	21
Drowning	0	0	0	0	5	5	4	1	6	4	4

Mountain Rescue Committee
Main Causes of Accidents - England and Wales 1991

Causes		1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986
Slip Fell Walking	Footwear good	128	132	108	85	75	61
	Footwear poor	103	122	94	59	64	56
Slip Snow/Ice	Well Equipped	11	10	11	17	9	17
	Poorly Equipped	5	6	8	17	8	24
Falls - Rock Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	22	17	17	15	20	13
	Solo	25	22	23	19	19	11
Falls - Snow /Ice Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	4	3	4	4	2	3
	Solo	4	1	1	6	3	5
Belay / Runner Failure	Climbing	12	17	14	9	10	8
	Abseiling	4	2	1	6	5	1
Rock Fall		6	6	7	13	9	7
Avalanche		5	0	7	5	0	5
Collapses (Medical)	Fatal	27	14	20	NR	NR	NR
	Non-fatal	11	37	36	NR	NR	NR
Inexperience, Ignorance or Incompetence Factors	April - October	100	118	118	133	168	139
	November - March	55	68	73	78	70	57
Suicide		13	7	10	5	3	3
Attempted Suicide		5	8	11	4	7	4
Non-Mountain Causes	Non-fatal	88	132	51	45	51	30
	Fatal	18	21	12	12	12	11
Lightening Strike		0	0	0	2	0	0