



## Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

### **Incident Report 1992**

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All enquiries please direct to :-

Ged Feeney  
MRC Statistics Collator  
57 Castlesteads Drive  
CARLISLE  
Cumbria  
CA2 7XD  
Tel: (+44) (0)1228 525709  
Email: [ged@gfeeney.demon.co.uk](mailto:ged@gfeeney.demon.co.uk)

Mountain Rescue Committee

England and Wales

Incident Report 1992

The increasing number of accidents and incidents involving our Welsh and English teams over the past years continued in 1992 with a 19% increase over 1991, i.e. over the last 10 years

	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>Total People Involved</b>
1982	350	42	249	524
1987	504	50	423	700
1992	819	62	582	998

Over the past seven years since I took over as the Incident Reports Officer from Tom Redfern there has been, every year, an increase in the involvement requested (and of course willingly given!) from the Police and other authorities to assist in the local searches for confused elderly patients gone wandering from hospital or nursing homes, road accidents, searching for threatened suicide cases etc. Also the increasing number of mountain biking and hang gliding accidents are also tending to inflate the incident totals. 1992 showed a very welcome reduction in rock/ice/snow climbing fatalities, these at four were still too many but nine less than 1991.

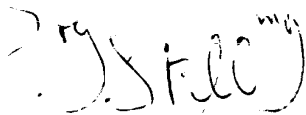
Another feature in the 1991 reports was the increased percentage of injuries of minor categories, again this appears to illustrate that our teams are being increasingly appreciated and involved.

The other disturbing feature in 1992 was the number of fatalities with head injuries and "no helmets" worn.

This being my last year's report may I thank teams, areas and officers for the kind help over the eight years.

Suggest that with a change of office that it could be an opportunity to have a detailed, fresh look at the incident reports method, procedure and perhaps a much more positive utilisation of the lessons and information arising with a national and increased accident prevention publicity campaign. With best wishes to David Noott.

Bryan Stilling



MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE ENGLAND AND WALES - MOUNTAIN INCIDENT REPORT 1992

TYPE	Lake Dist	N.E. Eng	York Dales	Mid Pen	Peak Dist	North Wales	South Wales	S.W. Eng	Total 1992	Total 1991	Total 1990	Total 1989	Total 1982
ROCK CLIMBING	20 21 (1)	2 2	3 3	1 1	19 18 (1)	14 13 (1)	- -	8 9	67 67 (3)	70 74 (11)	87 81 (4)	61 63 (7)	40 44 (4)
SNOW/ICE CLIMBING	1 1 (1)	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	-	- -	2 2 (1)	18 22 (2)	3 3 (1)	5 7	4 4
FELL WALKING APR / OCT	141 151 (12)	11 12 (1)	16 15 (1)	4 3 (1)	18 16 (2)	37 32 (6)	10 11	5 10 (2)	242 250 (25)	214 219 (18)	243 262 (14)	229 241 (21)	105 112 (10)
FELL WALKING NOV / MAR	56 74 (1)	9 7 (2)	3 3	4 4	17 20 (1)	12 11 (2)	1 1	2 7	104 127 (6)	80 98 (12)	60 70 (4)	96 104 (7)	41 45 (6)
SEARCHES INJURED	5 15	1 1	- -	6 6	4 6	4 4	4 2 (1)	4 6	28 40 (1)	19 31 (4)	34 34 (3)	36 44 (8)	26 38 (9)
SEARCHES NON-INJURED	26 31	16 27	5 6	12 19	17 23	25 53	40 74	25 54	166 287	125 262	101 216	104 263	86 213
CRAGFAST UNHURT	16 21	- -	- -	- -	4 5	15 30	1 2	4 5	40 65	58 79	19 26	27 43	16 22
NON-MOUNTAIN	74 24 (2)	24 16 (6)	4 3 (1)	10 6 (3)	12 10 (2)	16 11 (3)	11 8 (3)	10 14 (4)	161 93 (124)	103 86 (18)	133 132 (21)	49 51 (12)	32 46 (13)
TOTAL INCIDENTS	339	63	31	37	91	124	67	58	810	687	675	607	350
TOTAL FATALITIES	17	9	2	4	6	12	4	6	60	65	47	55	42
TOTAL INJURED	286	38	24	20	70	72	22	46	578	465	462	455	249
PEOPLE INVOLVED	355	78	32	40	104	167	102	111	998	870	835	524	524
HELICOPTER - RESCUE - SEARCH	31 15	NR NR	3 1	3 6	5 5	20 59	6 14	4 11	72 111	103 69	101 36	90 32	38 13
SARDA	30	11	2	13	6	29	16	16	123	112	96	78	35

The top figure is the number of incidents, the middle the people and the bottom is fatalities (brackets)

(REPORTED)

## FREQUENCY OF INJURIES - ENGLAND AND WALES 1992

Type	Fell Walking	Fell Walking Snow / Ice	Rock Climb'g	Snow/Ice Climb'g	Non-Mount'n	Totals 1992	Totals 1991	Totals 1990	Totals 1989	Totals 1988
Lower Leg/Foot	132	24	12	3	13	184	117	152	128	97
Upper Leg	30	8	5	1	6	50	43	43	29	27
Pelvis/Spine	9	0	6	1	2	18	20	20	23	16
Chest	3	0	2	0	0	5	4	12	5	9
Back										
- Bruising	6	1	5	1	2	15	15	18	8	9
- Fracture	1	0	4	0	3	8	3	3	6	4
Internal	2	0	5	0	1	8	5	4	9	9
Arm/Shoulder	12	7	8	0	2	29	25	16	22	21
Head - Fatal										
No Helmet	9	2	2	0	2	15	13	5	1	8
Helmet Worn	0	0	2	0	0	2	6	3	14	4
Head Injury										
No Helmet	22	10	9	0	2	43	40	36	14	9
Helmet Worn	0	1	6	0	0	7	7	7	29	NR
Multiple Abrasions	3	1	1	0	9	14	10	8	11	8
Exhaustion										
-Summer	20	0	0	0	3	23	19	31	33	22
-Winter	8	2	0	0	0	10	13	7	9	9
Hypothermia Fatal										
- Summer	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	0
- Winter	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	2
Hypothermia -Non-Fatal										
- Summer	20	0	0	0	3	23	12	16	20	11
- Winter	19	7	0	0	4	30	22	11	14	10
Heart Attack										
- Fatal	25	3	0	0	0	28	26	13	20	17
- Non Fatal	12	2	0	0	0	14	13	6	7	10
Illness	28	7	1	0	3	39	34	33	29	27
Drowning	1	0	0	0	4	5	5	4	1	6

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Main Causes of Accidents - England and Wales 1992

<b>Causes</b>		<b>1992</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1988</b>
Slip Fell Walking	Footwear good	149	128	132	108	85
	Footwear poor	102	103	122	94	59
Slip Snow/Ice	Well Equipped	14	11	10	11	17
	Poorly Equipped	8	5	6	8	17
Falls - Rock Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	16	22	17	17	15
	Solo	13	25	22	23	19
Falls - Snow /Ice Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	3	4	3	4	4
	Solo	2	4	1	1	6
Belay / Runner Failure	Climbing	17	12	17	14	9
	Abseiling	5	4	2	1	6
Rock Fall		8	6	6	7	5
Avalanche		2	5	0	7	5
Collapses (Medical)	Fatal	26	27	14	20	NR
	Non-fatal	48	11	37	36	NR
Inexperience, Ignorance or Incompetence Factors	April - October	91	100	118	118	133
	November - March	53	55	68	73	78
Suicide		4	13	7	10	5
Attempted Suicide		8	5	8	11	4
Non-Mountain Causes	Non-fatal	93	88	132	51	45
	Fatal	24	18	21	12	12
Lightening Strike		0	0	0	0	2

IKAR TYPE CALL-OUTS AND ACCIDENT STATISTICS

**COUNTRY** - ENGLAND AND WALES

**NUMBER OF AREAS** - 8

**NUMBER OF TEAMS** - 68 (EST)

**NUMBER OF ACTIVE TEAM MEMBERS** - OVER 1 500 (EST)

**SEARCH DOGS** - NOT RECORDED BUT CALL-OUTS 1992 INVOLVING SEARCH DOGS WAS 123 OCCASIONS

Category	Incidents		People
Ski-ing	0	Fatal	0
		Injured	0
		Uninjured	0
Alpine Terrain	0	Fatal	0
		Injured	0
		Uninjured	0
Avalanche / Rock Fall	10	Fatal	2
		Injured	8
		Uninjured	0
Search for Missing People Nov to March	71	Fatal	1
		Injured	11
		Uninjured	97
Rock Climbing	67	Fatal	3
		Injured	64
		Uninjured	0
Ice Climbing	2	Fatal	1
		Injured	2
		Uninjured	0
Hiking Terrain	322	Fatal	31
		Injured	367
		Uninjured	350
Search for Missing People Apr to Oct	123	Fatal	0
		Injured	29
		Uninjured	190
False Alarms			75 (est.)
Total Number of Call-outs			810
Helicopters involved			183
Total Number Rescued			989
Total Number Rescued with helicopter assistance			200 (est.)
Number of Call-out Hours			3 000 (est.)
Number of Rescuers Involved			5 500 (est.)
Total Fatalities (incl. Non-mountain)			60