



Mountain Rescue Council

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

Incident Report 1994

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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

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COUNCIL
ENGLAND AND WALES
INCIDENT REPORT 1994

This year's incidents and accidents in England and Wales are summarized as follows: -

| | INCIDENTS | FATALITIES | INJURED | TOTAL PERSONS ASSISTED |
|------|-----------|------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1994 | 634 | 39 | 486 | 929 |
| 1993 | 610 | 53 | 323 | 902 excluding non-mountain |
| 1992 | 649 | 62 | 582 | 998 |

All clinical diagnoses and causes of incidents; are those made on the spot; not all incidents have follow up reports from a Coroners Court or hospital.

This years figures show a welcome reduction in the number of fatalities in the fell walking category, from 36 in 1993 to 25 in 1994. Heart attacks accounted for 25 of the 1993 deaths, reducing to 18 in 1994. Deaths by misadventure to fell walkers also reduced by 4. Only time will show whether this is a downward trend or only an unusually low figure.

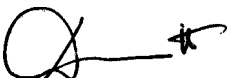
The other activities, climbing and other sports show an increase in paraglider and aquatic activity, although the fatalities remain constant.

An incident has been deemed to occur only when a Team is called out. It can be argued, however, that a call for assistance by a Police Authority, even if the advice is that a call out is not necessary constitutes use of Mountain Rescue resources There has been a total of 18 reported occasions in which advice was sought, mobile telephones used to guide lost souls and teams placed on standby for events which did not subsequently require their services.

As the definition of "Incompetence" provides that a Team should never have been required, the occasions in which "poor footwear" has contributed to the incident are incorporated into this heading.

The Rescue Teams have, during the year, given over 15000 man-hours to 106 non-mountain incidents, involving 11.6 persons, of which 23 were unfortunately fatalities.

Finally, 20 sheep, 4 goats (cragfast), 29 dogs and 2 cows were rescued for local farmers.



D A C Noott.
Hon Statistics Officer.

MOUNTAIN INCIDENT REPORT 1994

| Type | Lake Dist | NE Eng | York Dales | Mid Pen | Peak Dist | North Wales | South Wales | SW Eng | Total 1994 | Total 1993 | Total 1992 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|
| ROCK CLIMBING | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 23 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 56 | 51 | 67 |
| Casualties | 28 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 20 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 70 | 63 | 74 |
| Fatalities | (3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | (2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | (5) | (6) | (3) |
| SNOW/ICE CLIMBING | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Casualties | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Fatalities | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (1) | (1) | (1) |
| FELL WALK (Apr-Oct) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 181 | 14 | 15 | 3 | 24 | 35 | 22 | 9 | 303 | 329 | 242 |
| Casualties | 220 | 29 | 20 | 4 | 24 | 58 | 32 | 78 | 465 | 533 | 219 |
| Fatalities | (6) | 0 | (1) | 0 | (1) | (2) | 0 | 0 | (10) | (23) | (25) |
| FELL WALK (Nov-Mar) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 87 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 26 | 12 | 2 | 153 | 138 | 104 |
| Casualties | 171 | 28 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 42 | 25 | 17 | 300 | 201 | 127 |
| Fatalities | (7) | 0 | (1) | (1) | (2) | (4) | 0 | 0 | (15) | (13) | (6) |
| SEARCHES INJURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 23 | 28 |
| Casualties | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 16 | 34 | 35 | 40 |
| Fatalities | (1) | 0 | (1) | 0 | (1) | (2) | 0 | 0 | (5) | (6) | (1) |
| SEARCHES UNINJURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 48 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 102 | 112 | 166 |
| Persons | 128 | 33 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 43 | 36 | 77 | 341 | 328 | 287 |
| CRAGFAST UNHURT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 19 | 40 |
| Persons | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 25 | 65 |
| TOTAL MOUNTAIN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 353 | 30 | 29 | 16 | 76 | 73 | 43 | 14 | 634 | 610 | 649 |
| Persons | 451 | 63 | 34 | 19 | 76 | 118 | 70 | 98 | 929 | 902 | 998 |
| TOTAL INJURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 269 | 27 | 20 | 9 | 65 | 58 | 33 | 5 | 486 | 574 | 578 |
| FATALITIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mountain | (19) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (6) | (10) | 0 | 0 | (39) | (53) | (60) |
| Non-Mountain | (1) | (4) | 0 | (4) | (4) | (8) | (1) | (1) | (23) | (17) | |
| HELICOPTERS (inc Non-Mountain) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 67 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 105 | 19 | 4 | 220 | 149 | |
| SEARCH | 11 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 27 | 29 | 111 |
| RESCUE | 56 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 95 | 8 | 3 | 171 | 116 | 103 |
| NON-MOUNTAIN | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 12 | N/R |
| SARDA | 17 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 57 | 54 | |
| OTHER ACTIVITIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paragliding | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 4 | |
| Hang gliding | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | |
| Mountain Bike | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 15 | |
| Trail Bike | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | |
| Equestrian | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | |
| Orient/Run | 10 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 15 | |
| Toboggan/Ski | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | |
| Aquatic | 6 | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3(2) | 0 | 0 | 10(3) | 4(2) | |
| Aircraft | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1(1) | 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 3(4) | | |
| Occupation | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | |
| NON-MOUNTAIN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 19 | 12 | 1 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 106 | 86 | |
| Persons | 30 | 12 | 1 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 15 | 8 | 116 | 87 | |
| Fatalities | (1) | (4) | 0 | (4) | (4) | (8) | (1) | (1) | (23) | (16) | |
| SARDA | 2 | 8 | 0 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 61 | 48 | |

FREQUENCY OF INJURIES - ENGLAND AND WALES 1994

| Type | Fell Walking Winter | Fell Walking Summer | Rock Climb | Snow /Ice Climb | Other Sports | Total 1994 | Total 1993 | Total 1992 | Total 1991 | Total 1990 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Lower Leg, Knee & Foot | 51 | 125 | 19 | 1 | 25 | 221 | 210 | 184 | 117 | 152 |
| Upper leg | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 50 | 43 | 43 |
| Pelvis & Spine | 5 | 3 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 24 | 13 | 18 | 20 | 20 |
| Chest | 2 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 12 |
| Back - Bruising | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 18 |
| Back - Fracture | 1 | | 3 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| Neck | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| Internal | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Arm & Shoulder | 7 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 30 | 54 | 29 | 25 | 16 |
| Head fatal No helmet | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 13 | 5 |
| Head fatal With helmet | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Head injury No helmet | 13 | 13 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 52 | 41 | 43 | 40 | 36 |
| Head injury With helmet | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Multiple Abrasions | 7 | 21 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 21 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 8 |
| Exhaustion Summer | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 14 | 23 | 19 | 31 |
| Exhaustion Winter | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 7 |
| Hypothermia Fatal Summer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Hypothermia Fatal Winter | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Hypothermia Non-Fatal Summer | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 23 | 12 | 16 |
| Hypothermia Non-Fatal Winter | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 30 | 22 | 11 |
| Heart Attack Fatal | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 25 | 28 | 26 | 13 |
| Heart attack Non-fatal | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 6 |
| Illness | 9 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 22 | 39 | 34 | 33 |
| Drowning Mountain | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | |
| Drowning Non-mountain | | | | | | 7 | | | | |

MAIN CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS - ENGLAND AND WALES 1994

| | TOTALS 1994 | TOTALS 1993 | TOTALS 1992 | TOTALS 1991 | TOTALS 1990 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Slips fell walking poor footwear (now recorded elsewhere) | | N/R | 102 | 103 | 122 |
| Slips fell walking snow/ice conditions | 26 | 35 | 14 | 11 | 10 |
| No axe ±crampons | 25 | 33 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| Falls rock climbing or abseiling | | | | | |
| Roped | 8 | 11 | 16 | 22 | 17 |
| Solo | 45 | 40 | 13 | 25 | 22 |
| Falls ice/snow climbing or abseiling | | | | | |
| Roped | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Solo | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Belay or runner failure | | | | | |
| Climbing | 11 | 4 | 17 | 12 | 17 |
| Abseiling | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Rock fall | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Avalanche | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Collapses (medical) | | | | | |
| Fatal | 18 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 14 |
| Non-fatal | 45 | 15 | 48 | 11 | 37 |
| Inexperience/ignorance/incompetence & footwear | | | | | |
| April-October | 35 | 20 | 91 | 100 | 118 |
| November-March | 23 | 8 | 53 | 55 | 68 |
| Suicide | 2 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 7 |
| Attempted suicide | ? | ? | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| Lightning strike | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aircraft | 3(4) | 2(3) | | | |
| False alarm | 47 | 30 | | | |
| Hoax | 2 | 3 | | | |
| Other sport | 64 | 47 | | | |
| Occupation | 3 | | | | |