



Mountain Rescue Council

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

Incident Report 2000

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(Revised 16/10/2001)

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 2000

This year's mountain incident and accidents in England and Wales are summarised as follows: -

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2000	679	19	435	916
1999	635	37	390	835
1998	628	26	444	810
1997	695	19	512	925
1996	697	27	538	1059
1995	656	52	474	900

There is only one striking trend appearing from the figures that follow, but there is another that requires comment. Most of the instances reported here, remain consistent with previous years. Even from table 1 above, it can be clearly seen that fatalities are down. There were two deaths involving mountain bikers for the second year running.

The number of people assisted as a result of heart attack has shown a significant drop following four years of a steadily rising trend. Attacks were nearly halved. This has applied to both the fatalities and to those for whom the prognosis was better in similar proportions; in fact, deaths from heart attacks have more than halved (pg7). Cases of hypothermia are still too evident in these figures. Given the availability of excellent clothing, reliable weather forecasting and energy food, parties are still succumbing to poor weather conditions. Whilst this condition may be helpful to those subject to trauma, it is wholly avoidable in the fit and well.

As noted last year, the trend to alert the emergency services using mobile phones continues to increase. The proportion of incidents initiated this way has almost double in four years, from 11.9% in 1997 to 21.8% in 2000. The number of instances where this use was deemed inappropriate has however almost disappeared. However, there is still a problem in the routing of these 999 calls to the appropriate control room.

This year's non-mountain incidents are summarised as follows:

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured ¹	Persons assisted
2000	320	46	86	277
1999	277	29	87	260
1998	250	44	71	242
1997	185	26	49	163
1996	213	21		411
1995	144	18		147

1. Comparable figures before 1997 are not available

Included in these figures are cases of tragic death associated with water activities, accidents where access proves too difficult for local emergency services and persons missing from home. All these incidents have different hazards and make different training demands. This all adds up to over 68,000 man-hours, much of which is during the hours of darkness and in very poor weather.

Ged Feeney.

Ged Feeney
MRC Statistics Collator

Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2000.

The report confines itself to those leisure activities that are mountain or wilderness-related to which Mountain Rescue Teams were summoned. It lists the number of incidents and the number of persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals do not sum to 100% because of round up error in the rows.

'Fellwalking' is a general category covering all instances of walking, away from easy road or track access. The categories of 'summer' and 'winter' refer to the prevailing conditions reported at the time of the incident; it does not refer to a calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Abseiling	Incidents	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0.4
	Subjects	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0.4
Fellrunning	Incidents	4	2	1	0	5	1	0	1	14	2.1
	Subjects	4	2	1	0	4	1	0	1	13	1.4
Fellwalking - Summer	Incidents	238	19	15	60	64	21	12	24	453	66.7
	Subjects	289	30	14	90	87	26	25	33	594	64.8
Fellwalking - Summer (DoE)	Incidents	9	1	0	1	3	1	3	3	21	3.1
	Subjects	21	2	0	1	6	0	19	17	66	7.2
Fellwalking - Winter	Incidents	19	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	26	3.8
	Subjects	32	1	0	7	2	3	0	0	45	4.9
Fellwalking - Winter (DoE)	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Hang Gliding	Incidents	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0.6
	Subjects	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0.4
Mountain Biking	Incidents	8	5	4	0	8	0	0	5	30	4.4
	Subjects	11	4	4	0	8	0	0	5	32	3.5
Parapenting	Incidents	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	9	1.3
	Subjects	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	9	1.0
Rescue Team Exercise	Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
Rock Climbing	Incidents	10	2	1	17	19	0	1	2	52	7.7
	Subjects	15	2	1	40	20	0	1	2	81	8.8
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	2	0	1	16	2	0	0	0	21	3.1
	Subjects	4	0	1	26	2	0	0	0	33	3.6
Searches *	Incidents	9	9	6	12	3	3	0	0	42	6.2
	Subjects	2	7	10	6	3	2	0	0	30	3.3
Snow/Ice Climbing	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0.3
Totals	Incidents	307	42	28	110	110	29	17	36	679	99.9
	Subjects	388	51	31	171	137	33	46	59	916	99.8

* This category includes those activities not covered by the rest, where the subjects had either strayed, become lost, or whose whereabouts were otherwise unknown.

Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2000 to: 31/12/2000.

The report confines itself to those leisure activities that are mountain or wilderness-related to which Mountain Rescue Teams were summoned. It lists the number of persons assisted by condition of subjects. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals do not sum to 100% because of round up error in the rows.

'Fellwalking' is a general category covering all instances of walking, away from easy road or track access. The categories of 'summer' and 'winter' refer to the prevailing conditions reported at the time of the incident; it does not refer to a calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	Perce
Abseiling	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
Fellrunning	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	4	0.4
	Injured	3	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	9	1.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fellwalking - Summer	Uninjured	132	12	3	57	40	18	22	16	300	32.8
	Injured	154	16	10	33	46	8	3	14	284	31.0
	Fatal	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	3	10	1.1
Fellwalking - Summer (DoE)	Uninjured	6	2	0	0	5	0	17	15	45	4.9
	Injured	15	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	21	2.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fellwalking - Winter	Uninjured	21	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	27	2.9
	Injured	11	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	18	2.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fellwalking - Winter (DoE)	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hang Gliding	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.3
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.7
	Injured	5	4	3	0	7	0	0	5	24	2.6
	Fatal	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.2
Parapenting	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	9	1.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rescue Team Exercise	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	6	0	0	30	1	0	0	0	37	4.0
	Injured	9	2	1	8	18	0	0	2	40	4.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	4	0.4
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	3	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	19	2.1
	Injured	1	0	1	9	2	0	0	0	13	1.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Searches *	Uninjured	2	5	6	6	2	0	0	0	21	2.3
	Injured	0	2	4	0	1	2	0	0	9	1.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Snow/Ice Climbing	Uninjured	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0.3
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	179	20	9	112	50	22	39	31	462	50.4
	Injured	205	29	20	56	84	11	5	25	435	47.5
	Fatal	4	2	2	3	3	0	2	3	19	2.0

* This category includes those activities not covered by the rest, where the subjects had either strayed, become lost, or whose whereabouts were otherwise unknown.

Non-Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2000 to: 31/12/2000.

This report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness related activities. It lists the number of incidents and the number of persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals do not sum to 100% because of round up error in the rows.

The search category covers mainly urban, coastline or lowland areas with good road access. Local incidents reflect assistance given to local communities during severe weather etc.

Action/Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	Perce
Aircrash - Civil	Incidents	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0.9
	Subjects	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1.4
Cave/Mine Exploration	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Horse / Pony Trekking	Incidents	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	7	2.2
	Subjects	1	1	3	0	0	0	5	0	10	3.6
Local Incident	Incidents	14	30	8	2	9	3	6	1	73	22.8
	Subjects	3	18	7	1	5	2	2	0	38	13.7
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	3	57	32	29	29	36	20	1	207	64.7
	Subjects	3	57	30	29	28	34	19	1	201	72.6
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	2	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	3.1
	Subjects	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.8
Sledging	Incidents	1	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	9	2.8
	Subjects	1	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	9	3.2
Water Sport	Incidents	1	2	0	2	0	1	3	1	10	3.1
	Subjects	1	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	9	3.2
Totals	Incidents	23	101	44	35	42	41	31	3	320	99.9
	Subjects	10	86	42	32	37	38	29	3	277	99.9

Non-Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2000 to: 31/12/2000.

This report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness related activities. It lists the number of persons assisted by Condition of subjects. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals do not sum to 100% because of round up error in the rows.

The search category covers mainly urban, coastline or lowland areas with good road access. Local incidents reflect assistance given to local communities during severe weather etc.

Action / Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	Perce
Aircrash - Civil	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1.4
Cave/Mine Exploration	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Horse / Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	1.4
	Injured	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	6	2.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Local Incident	Uninjured	0	2	4	0	3	0	0	0	9	3.2
	Injured	2	15	3	1	2	1	0	0	24	8.7
	Fatal	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	5	1.8
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	2	39	21	23	14	18	15	0	132	47.7
	Injured	1	11	5	3	8	8	3	0	39	14.1
	Fatal	0	7	4	3	6	8	1	1	30	10.8
Road Traffic Accident	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	9	3.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sport	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.7
	Fatal	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	7	2.5
Totals	Uninjured	2	41	25	23	17	18	19	0	145	52.3
	Injured	6	34	13	5	14	9	5	0	86	31.1
	Fatal	2	11	4	4	6	11	5	3	46	16.5

Main Causes of Mountain Incidents

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2000, during which 678 incidents were reported.

This report summarises the main causes of Mountain Accidents. It is based on a search of key words used in incident reports. All causes have not been listed, so the column totals may not agree with the total number of incidents. A typical report will illustrate another problem with totals:-

"... tripped on footpath whilst walking and fell 2 metres onto rocky ground."

This will result in contributions to the 'Slip, Trip or Stumble' and the 'Fall or Tumble' categories.

Cause	Col. 1 Fellwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Fellwalking (winter)	Col. 3 Rock Climbing	Col. 4 Snow / Ice Climbing	Col. 5 Other Activities	Col. 6 Total	Col. 7 Percentage
Avalanche	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Belay / Runner Failure	0	0	7	0	0	7	1.0
Benighted	17	0	3	1	2	23	3.4
Cragfast	21	2	8	1	1	33	4.9
Fall or Tumble	61	5	44	0	16	126	18.6
Lightening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Lost	83	4	3	0	6	96	14.2
Medical Collapse or Illness	50	1	0	0	1	52	7.7
Overdue or Missing	56	3	4	0	14	77	11.4
Rockfall	1	0	3	0	0	4	0.6
Shouts/Lights/Flares Reported	2	0	2	0	13	17	2.5
Slip, Trip or Stumble	171	7	14	0	1	193	28.5
Unable to Continue	32	1	3	0	0	36	5.3

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Fellrunning and Orienteering incidents

Col. 2 This category is based on the prevailing weather and ground conditions at the time, not on a calendar period. It includes those incidents involving D of E expeditions conducted in wintry conditions.

Col. 3 This includes incidents of Rock Scrambling and Abseiling.

Col. 5 This groups all the remaining mountain activities of Mountain Biking, Hanggliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing and Mountain searches.

Col. 7 This is a percentage of all Mountain Incidents reported.

Main Sites & Types of Injury

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2000, during which 678 casualties were reported.

This report summarises the main types and sites of injuries dealt with by MR Teams. It is based on a search of key words used in incident reports.

Injury Type / Site	Col. 1 Fellwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Fellwalking (winter)	Col. 3 Rock Climbing	Col. 4 Snow / Ice Climbing	Col. 5 Other Activities	Col. 6 Non - Mountain	Col. 7 Total
Lower Leg & Foot	126	2	26	0	7	14	175
Upper Leg & Knee	30	0	4	0	5	4	43
Pelvis	4	0	1	0	1	2	8
Abdomen	2	1	0	0	0	2	5
Chest & Shoulder	18	2	9	0	9	6	44
Back & Neck	11	1	10	0	7	15	44
Arm & Hand	20	0	8	0	5	7	40
Head	31	3	12	0	9	11	66
Fractures	123	4	27	0	15	27	196
Lacerations Etc	27	2	10	0	11	8	58
Exhaustion	15	2	0	0	0	0	17
Hypothermia	24	8	0	0	2	15	49
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Heart Attack (fatalities)	8	0	0	0	1	0	9
Illness	3	0	0	0	0	0	3

Notes:
 Col. 1 This category also includes Fellrunning and Orienteering incidents
 Col. 2 The category of Fellwalking (winter) is based on the prevailing weather and ground conditions at the time, not on a calendar period.
 Col. 3 This includes incidents of Rock Scrambling and Abseiling.
 Col. 5 This groups all the remaining mountain activities of Mountain Biking, Hanggliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing and Mountain searches.
 Col. 6 This groups all the non-mountain incidents as detailed on pages 4 & 5 of this report.

Specialist Resources & Other Details

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2000, during which time 1053 incidents were reported.

This report summarises the specialist resources used during incidents dealt with by MR Teams. It is detailed on a regional basis, with explanations given as footnotes to each row. The percentage calculations (rounded to 1 dec. pl.) are based on the total number of incidents reported by MR Teams.

Category	Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	Perce
1 Incidents Attended by Helicopters	56	64	25	67	51	23	8	5	299	28.4
2 Helicopters Used for Evacuation	44	18	8	54	27	8	2	3	164	15.6
3 Helicopters Used for Searching	8	42	3	7	15	16	6	3	100	9.5
4 Helicopters Used for Deployment	8	1	1	4	3	3	0	0	20	1.9
5 Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	38	32	18	34	24	45	15	0	206	19.6
6 Search Dog Finds	9	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	16	1.5
7 Incidents Attended by a Doctor	86	9	13	2	62	4	3	0	179	17.0
8 Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	126	11	6	48	23	5	5	0	224	21.3
9 Animal Rescues	28	1	4	0	2	1	1	0	37	3.5

Notes:

Row 1. The number of incidents where a helicopter (military, police or ambulance) was called to or attended the scene of an incident.

Row 2. The number of times the helicopter was used to evacuate the casualty(ies) from the scene of the incident.

Row 3. The number of occasions when the helicopter was employed to search for the missing subject(s).

Row 4. The number of times the helicopters were used to deploy personnel and/or equipment to remote locations.

Row 5. The number of incidents where MR Search Dogs was called to or attended an incident.

Row 6. The number of instances where the subject was located by a Search Dog and handler.

Row 7. The number of incidents where a doctor attended the scene of the incident - in most cases, these doctors were members of MR Teams.

Row 8. The number of incidents initiated by the person(s) requiring assistance using a mobile phone. In addition, the mobile phone may also have been used by this person during the course of the incident, especially in a search.

Row 9. The number of animal rescues where a Team has been requested by the police, local farmer or owner - these include cragfast sheep, dogs stuck on crags or down sink holes or larger animals unable to exit a deep gorge or stream bed.