



Mountain Rescue

(England & Wales)

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue
(England & Wales)

Incident Report 2006

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Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

Incident Report 2006

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2006	729	32	443	997
2005	693	39	424	800
2004	609	25	376	804
2003	597	33	391	742
2002	655	23	438	824

Once again the number of incidents has increased, continuing the pattern of the last four years. In most cases, the trends have not changed; as in the past, lower leg injuries dominate, usually in the second half of the day. This persistent feature should not be accepted as the norm; the hill-going public must remember this stark fact that the majority of accidents occur toward the end of the day when people become tired and when they let down their guard.

There are two areas of growing concern; an increase has been noticed in the number of incidents attributed to poor navigation and/or preparation. Incidents reported as 'lost', 'benighted' or 'overdue' currently account for 1 in 4 mountain incidents. Absence of or reluctance to use navigation skills was often cited in these reports. The number of subjects reported as 'hypothermic' should not be overlooked; modern clothing and education should have reduced this to near-zero, but the numbers are still significant and the condition remains avoidable.

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2006	333	36	99	252
2005	264	34	90	211
2004	311	64	78	251
2003	334	28	97	260
2002	372	56	117	293

Whilst the overall figure for non-mountain incidents equates to one-per-day, the amount of searching continues to increase. This makes severe demands on members' time and commitment but does bring the work of Mountain Rescue to the attention of the greater public. In addition, there appears a significant increase in water-related incidents and associated fatalities. It is generally known that we work closely with the Police and Ambulance services, it must be borne in mind that we increasingly work with the Fire and Rescue service and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

I would like to thank all teams currently reporting electronically. This accounts for 84% of incidents; progress has been made from last year's figure of 67%. It can only be hoped that by this time next year, all teams will be reporting by this method. Finally, if you can think of ways of enhancing this report, either by way of content or presentation, do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas.

Ged Feeney.

Ged Feeney
Statistics Officer MR(E&W)

Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006.

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 persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals may not sum to 100% because of the round up error in the rows.

Hillwalking is a general category covering all instances of walking for pleasure, 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 any 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	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.2
Fell Running	Incidents	4	1	0	1	4	0	1	1	12	1.6
	Subjects	3	1	0	1	4	0	1	1	11	1.1
Hill Walking - summer	Incidents	268	20	7	81	82	35	6	25	524	71.9
	Subjects	360	18	7	145	112	46	4	31	723	72.5
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Incidents	5	1	0	3	2	1	1	0	13	1.8
	Subjects	15	5	0	11	10	0	0	0	41	4.1
Hill Walking - winter	Incidents	20	1	1	7	2	3	0	3	37	5.1
	Subjects	25	3	1	10	3	4	0	5	51	5.1
Hang Gliding	Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Incidents	6	4	4	1	11	2	2	2	32	4.4
	Subjects	7	4	5	1	10	3	2	2	34	3.4
Orienteering	Incidents	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5
	Subjects	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4
Parapenting	Incidents	3	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	7	1.0
	Subjects	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0.4
Rescue Team Exercise	Incidents	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Rock Climbing	Incidents	6	2	0	11	13	1	0	1	34	4.7
	Subjects	10	1	0	31	13	1	0	1	57	5.7
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	5	0	0	25	1	0	0	1	32	4.4
	Subjects	7	0	0	38	1	0	0	1	47	4.7
Search*	Incidents	10	4	2	4	3	3	1	0	27	3.7
	Subjects	7	3	0	3	2	3	1	0	19	1.9
Snow / Ice Climbing	Incidents	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Totals	Incidents	335	34	14	135	120	47	11	33	729	100.0
	Subjects	444	36	13	242	156	57	8	41	997	100.0

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

Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006.

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 persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals may not sum to 100% because of the round up error in the rows.

Hillwalking is a general category covering all instances of walking for pleasure, 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 any calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Abseiling	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fell Running	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Injured	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	1	8	0.8
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Hill Walking - summer	Uninjured	201	5	1	89	48	18	2	14	378	37.9
	Injured	141	12	5	53	62	28	2	17	320	32.1
	Fatal	18	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	25	2.5
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Uninjured	12	5	0	9	9	0	0	0	35	3.5
	Injured	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	6	0.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking - winter	Uninjured	8	3	0	4	2	2	0	2	21	2.1
	Injured	17	0	1	4	1	2	0	3	28	2.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	3	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	9	0.9
	Injured	4	4	1	1	10	1	2	2	25	2.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Orienteering	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Parapenting	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0.4
	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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	9	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	36	3.6
	Injured	1	1	0	4	13	1	0	1	21	2.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	4	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	28	2.8
	Injured	2	0	0	13	1	0	0	1	17	1.7
	Fatal	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Search*	Uninjured	7	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	13	1.3
	Injured	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	4	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.2
Snow / Ice Climbing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	245	15	5	155	60	23	3	16	522	52.4
	Injured	179	20	7	81	94	32	5	25	443	44.4
	Fatal	20	1	1	6	2	2	0	0	32	3.2

* 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 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006.

The report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness activities. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals may not sum to 100% because of the 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 and emergency services during severe weather or in cases of access difficulties etc.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Aircrash - civil	Incidents	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.6
	Subjects	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.8
Fishing	Incidents	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0.9
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1.2
Local Incident	Incidents	27	38	5	1	30	7	2	6	116	34.8
	Subjects	11	12	3	1	15	5	2	0	49	19.4
Pony Trekking	Incidents	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1.2
	Subjects	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1.6
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	1.2
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.8
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	13	40	15	11	12	41	47	3	182	54.7
	Subjects	12	38	15	11	11	38	33	2	160	63.5
Sledging	Incidents	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0.9
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Water Sports (all types)	Incidents	11	1	0	4	1	1	0	1	19	5.7
	Subjects	24	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	31	12.3
Totals	Incidents	52	84	20	17	45	52	51	12	333	100.0
	Subjects	47	56	18	19	28	44	36	4	252	100.0

* These details are also reported by BCRC, but are included here because support was provided by surface MR team(s).

Non-Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006.

The report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness activities. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals may not sum to 100% because of the 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 and emergency services during severe weather or in cases of access difficulties etc.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Aircrash - civil	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Fishing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Local Incident	Uninjured	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	6	2.4
	Injured	9	12	2	0	8	2	2	0	35	13.9
	Fatal	1	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	8	3.2
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.4
	Injured	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Road Traffic Accident	Uninjured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	6	25	13	6	5	21	22	0	98	38.9
	Injured	3	10	2	2	5	10	9	1	42	16.7
	Fatal	3	3	0	3	1	7	2	1	20	7.9
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sports (all types)	Uninjured	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	11	4.4
	Injured	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	5.2
	Fatal	4	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	7	2.8
Totals	Uninjured	16	26	14	8	9	21	23	0	117	46.4
	Injured	23	27	4	4	14	13	11	3	99	39.3
	Fatal	8	3	0	7	5	10	2	1	36	14.3

* These details are also reported by BCRC, but are included here because support was provided by surface MR team(s).

Main Causes of Mountain Incidents

This report covers the period from 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006, during which time 732 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.

Causes	Col. 1 Hillwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Hillwalking (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	2	0	2	0	0	4	0.5
Benighted	18	0	2	0	0	20	2.7
Cragfast	15	1	22	0	0	38	5.2
Fall or Tumble	96	7	32	2	20	157	21.4
Lightening	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
Lost	103	5	6	0	4	118	16.1
Medical Collapse or Illness	59	2	1	0	1	63	8.6
Overdue or Missing	54	3	0	0	15	72	9.8
Rockfall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	12	0	1	0	5	18	2.5
Slip, Trip or Stumble	175	20	9	0	4	208	28.4
Unable to Continue	14	0	2	0	0	16	2.2

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Hill Running and Orienteering.

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 e.g. Mountain Biking, Hang Gliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing, Mountain Searches, etc.

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

Main Sites & Types of Injury

This report covers the period from 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006, during which time 599 incidents were reported.

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

Injury Site / Type	Col. 1 Hillwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Hillwalking (winter)	Col. 3 Rock Climbing	Col. 4 Snow / Ice Climbing	Col. 5 Other Activities	Col. 6 Non - Mountain	Col. 7 Total
Lower Leg & Foot	135	8	13	1	5	13	175
Upper Leg & Knee	26	2	6	0	2	9	45
Pelvis	2	0	1	1	4	3	11
Abdomen	2	0	0	0	1	1	4
Chest & Shoulder	27	3	2	1	10	3	46
Back & Neck	19	2	5	1	7	6	40
Arm & Hand	18	2	0	0	6	2	28
Head	34	2	6	0	7	6	55
Fractures	133	11	14	2	17	16	193
Lacerations etc	13	4	6	0	3	12	38
Exhaustion	9	1	0	0	0	3	13
Hypothermia	22	3	0	0	1	14	40
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	5	0	2	0	0	1	8
Heart Attack (fatal)	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Illness	4	0	0	0	0	0	4

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Hill Running and Orienteering.

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 e.g. Mountain Biking, Hang Gliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing, Mountain Searches, etc.

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 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006, during which time 1089 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	%
1. Incidents Attended by Helicopter	93	35	7	68	49	44	10	13	319	29.3
2. Helicopters Used for Evacuation	61	11	2	55	26	18	1	11	185	17.0
3. Helicopters Used for Searching	24	22	5	9	10	18	9	1	98	9.0
4. Helicopters Used for Deployment	10	1	0	8	2	2	0	0	23	2.1
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	62	18	3	18	21	47	8	0	177	16.3
6. Search Dog Finds	7	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	19	1.7
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	92	1	5	8	45	0	1	0	152	14.0
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	216	12	4	92	59	26	2	0	411	37.7
9. Animal Rescues	9	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	14	1.3

Notes:

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

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

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

Row 4. The number of occasions when the aircraft was used to deploy personnel and/or equipment to remote locations, or their recovery.

Row 5. The number of incidents where Mountain Rescue Search Dogs were called to or attended an incident.

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

Row 7. The number of incidents where a doctor attended the scene of an 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 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.