



MOUNTAIN RESCUE (ENGLAND & WALES)

PATRON – HRH PRINCE WILLIAM OF WALES

Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

Incident Report 2009

Copyright © 2010 Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)
(08/04/2010)

All enquiries please direct to: -

Ged Feeney
MR-E&W Statistics Officer
57 Castlesteads Drive
CARLISLE
Cumbria
CA2 7XD
Tel: +44 (0)1228 525709
Email: ged@gfeeney.demon.co.uk

Copies of this report can be obtained from the MR(E&W) website –
<http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/publications/annual-statistics-reports>

Intentionally blank

Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

Incident Report 2009

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

| Year | Incidents | Fatalities | Injured | Persons assisted |
|------|-----------|------------|---------|------------------|
| 2009 | 1054 | 37 | 667 | 1457 |
| 2008 | 880 | 48 | 557 | 1193 |
| 2007 | 782 | 33 | 499 | 1121 |
| 2006 | 748 | 32 | 453 | 1013 |
| 2005 | 693 | 39 | 424 | 800 |
| 2004 | 609 | 25 | 376 | 804 |

From the evidence above, there seems no 'let-up' in the annual increase in incident figures. Incidents have increased 21% nationally, but this statistic masks considerable variation across the regions. The Yorkshire Dales increased by 107%, North Wales by 67%, the Peak District by 49%, leaving the Lake District with 12% increase and the other regions showing a decrease. No single activity is responsible for these increases as the distribution of incidents across activities follows similar patterns for previous years. Could this be a consequence of the recession and the advent of the 'stay-cation'?

Looking at the causes of these incidents, things have changed little over the past 3 or 4 years. Falls and slips contributed the largest proportion at almost 48%; how many of these resulted from tiredness or poor appreciation of the terrain cannot be answered from these figures. The next major figure is lost or reported overdue; at nearly 21%, most of these calls for help are avoidable. Proper use of map and compass could reduce this figure overnight; both items are readily available and cheap, but they are useless without the knowledge and experience to use them.

This year's non-mountain incidents in England and Wales are summarised as follows:

| Year | Incidents | Fatalities | Injured | Persons assisted |
|------|-----------|------------|---------|------------------|
| 2009 | 531 | 54 | 147 | 374 |
| 2008 | 407 | 56 | 102 | 325 |
| 2007 | 396 | 37 | 100 | 303 |
| 2006 | 344 | 38 | 102 | 263 |
| 2005 | 264 | 34 | 90 | 211 |
| 2004 | 311 | 64 | 78 | 251 |

Once again this year, the incidents have demonstrated that the skills and equipment possessed by mountain rescue teams are invaluable in the non-mountain environment. On a national note, the flooding in Cumbria and South Wales made the headlines; great media coverage provided graphic evidence of this valuable service. But we should not forget the contribution made to non-mountain search efforts, most of which goes unrecognised in the media but it provides vital support to police and local communities.

Finally, teams were contacted by statutory services that did not result in a deployment of personnel; for the last three years these have totalled 126 (2007), 148 (2008) and 225 (2009). And all of this is provided at no cost to its users, very little government funding by teams who pay taxes on practically all their purchases.

Ged Feeney
MR(E&W) Statistics Officer