

URGENCY ASSESSMENT

With the steadily increasing number of low key / frivolous call outs initiated by mobile telephones it is inevitable that, at some stage, Teams will question whether or not they are really needed.

Caution should always be exercised when using information provided by a casualty's party. Experience has shown that, on many occasions, information had been misleading with seemingly small insignificant jobs developing into major incidents later.

The kind of response a Team Leader makes should be based on his/her judgement. Only if the decision not to call out a hill team or that only limited action is considered necessary should this form be completed.

Assessment forms indicating less action to be taken than that considered by a Leader's initial judgement should be ignored.

A Team Leader may sometimes wish to deploy a team even though enquiries suggest that a casualty is in no real danger. This is because useful training can often be gained by such means.

Rescue personnel are not obliged to respond to requests for help even when casualties are believed to be at risk. Team Leaders should consider the following: _

Whether they or their members are available in sufficient numbers to make a rescue viable.

Whether team members will be subjected to hazards outside their competence, e.g. working in underground excavations, dealing with hazardous chemicals or possible explosive materials (crashed military aircraft etc.)

Whether extreme weather or snow conditions puts a team at an unacceptably high level of risk

This is not an assessment for calculating hazards faced by team members. Leaders should assess this separately.

Using the Urgency Assessment Form.

- 1) For all but the third and last category make an estimate of the score between 1 and 10 and place in the box on the right.
- 2) For the third and last categories make a specific score between 1 and 10.
- 3) For last category - columns 3 to 6 increase the by 3 if no torch with the casualty.
- 4) Suspect or unknown information will make any category score 10
- 5) Total all the scores and assess against the bar along the bottom.
- 6) In categories 3, 6 & 7 any score in the grey area will automatically make the risk high.

NORTH WALES POLICE / MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Name		Incident	
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Urgency Assessment - casualties request for help via VHF or mobile telephone. Estimate the score for each of the following categories, if no information score as 10. Caution should always be exercised when applying suspect information.

Score	← 0						10 →		
Experience of casualty's party	Known sound competence		Reasonable evidence of competence		Amateur with vague idea		Novice		
Score	← 0						10 →		
Fitness (of weakest member of party)	Used to walks 20k plus Munro bagger etc.						Overweight & Unfit		←
Score	0	2	3	5	6	8	10		
Age in years (weakest member of party)	21 - 30	16 - 20 31 - 45	12 - 15 46 - 55	9 - 11 56 - 65	6 - 8 66 - 75	2 - 5 75 plus	0 - 1 Poor mental health		
Score	← 0						10 →		
Clothing	State of art kit for conditions		Non-breathable waterproofs, windproof, every day clothing, bendy boots		Non-waterproof jacket, sweater, 'T' shirt, trainers		Shorts, 'T' shirt etc.		
Score	← 0						10 →		
Food & Survival equipment	Full camp equipment & food. Rope. In winter - ice-axe & crampons						No equipment		←
Score	← 0					10 →			
Injuries & illnesses	No injuries or illness	Minor/upper limb injuries, mobile		Mild hypothermia, sprained ankle, exhaustion		Immobilising injuries (non-life threatening)	Life threatening illness, major trauma/shock moderate or deep hypothermia		←
Score	← 0				7 →		10		
Terrain	Level ground, route to base straight forward & less than 1k		Mod/diff paths 1 hour or more from road. Need for very basic nav.		Complex topography with potential for dangerous mistakes		Steep dangerous ground. In winter hard snow with ankle above 25°		
Score	← 0						10 →		
Weather conditions for duration of rescue	Dry, warm, still	Cool, breezy	Showery, light rain, gusty. Cool	Continuous heavy rain. Strong wind. Just above freezing	Driving sleet, gales. Zero or near zero deg. C		Blizzard, gales. Below freezing		
Score	← 0						10 →		
Visibility	Continuously clear						Difficulty in seeing the ground. In winter. 'white out' conditions		
Score	0	2	← 5		7		10 →		
Amount of remaining daylight / darkness	3 hrs or more of daylight	3-2 hrs daylight	2-1 hrs daylight		< 1 hr daylight		> 3 hrs of darkness		
		Dark but < 1 hr darkness remaining	1-2 hrs darkness remaining		2-3 hrs darkness remaining				
Total Score									
25			60			100			
Low Risk			Medium Risk			High Risk			

Monitor from Base, possibly no other action required

Dispatch small party to investigate / escort to safety

Full evacuation required with some urgency

Any category which scores in the grey area on the right will make the overall risk high.

Search Urgency

**Remember the lower the number
the more urgent the response!!!**

Date Completed: _____
Time Completed: _____
Initials: _____

A. SUBJECT PROFILE

Age

- Very Young 1
- Very Old 1
- Other 2-3

Medical Condition

- Known or suspected injury or illness 1-2
- Healthy 3
- Known fatality 3

Number of Subjects

- One alone 1
- More than one (unless separation suspected) 2-3

B. WEATHER PROFILE

- Existing hazardous weather 1
- Predicted hazardous weather (8 hours or less) 1-2
- Predicted hazardous weather (more than 8 hours) 2
- No hazardous weather predicted 3

C. EQUIPMENT PROFILE

- Inadequate for environment 1
- Questionable for environment 1-2
- Adequate for environment 3

D. SUBJECT EXPERIENCE PROFILE

- Not experienced, not familiar with the area 1
- Not experienced, knows the area 1-2
- Experienced, not familiar with the area 2
- Experienced, knows the area 3

E. TERRAIN & HAZARDS PROFILE

- Known hazardous terrain or other hazards 1
- Few or no hazards 2-3

TOTAL

**If any of the seven categories above are rated as a one (1), regardless of the total,
the search could require an emergency response.**

••• THE TOTAL SHOULD RANGE FROM 7 TO 21 WITH 7 BEING THE MOST URGENT. •••