

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE

MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM INCIDENT REPORT 1981

	LAKES DIST	NE ENG'D	YORKS DALES	MID PENN'E	PEAK DIST	NORTH WALES	SOUTH WALES	SW ENG'D	TOTAL
ROCK	12	2	1	0	4	10	1	4	34
CLIMBING	12 (2)	2	2	0	4	12 (2)	1	4	37 (4)
SNOW/ICE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
CLIMBING	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
FELL-WALKING	62	7	15	4	11	25	2	0	126
Apl-Oct	65 (6)	10	15 (3)	4	11 (1)	29 (3)	2	0	136 (13)
FELL-WALKING	11	0	1	2	9	9	2	0	34
Nov-Mar	16 (1)	0	1 (1)	3	9 (3)	9 (1)	3	0	41 (6)
SEARCHES	4	3	2	5	2	0	1	0	17
Injured	4 (2)	4 (2)	4	5 (3)	7	0	1 (1)	0	25 (8)
SEARCHES	22	11	8	4	9	9	9	1	73
Non-Injured	64	15	29	2	18	10	11	2	151
CRAGFAST	4	2	0	0	0	10	0	6	22
Non-Injured	7	2	0	0	0	16	0	9	34
NON_MOUNTAIN	5	0	2	1	1	8	1	2	20
	6 (4)	0	2 (1)	1	1	9 (2)	1	2	22 (7)
TOTAL Incidents	120	25	29	16	37	71	16	13	327
People Asst'd	174 (15)	33 (2)	53 (5)	15 (3)	52 (4)	85 (8)	19 (1)	17	448 (38)

1. Areas are those of the Regional Mountain Rescue Associations.
2. Top line in each classification indicates number of incidents dealt with by Teams.
3. Bottom line in each classification incidents the number of people assisted, including fatalities which are given in brackets.

Comments

During 1981 Mountain Rescue Teams in England and Wales attended 327 incidents, assisting a total of 448 people, of which 38 were fatalities. 90 searches were carried out for people lost or benighted (mainly through inexperience, stupidity and/or lack of torch). Of the 176 people assisted, only 25 were injured. It is worth noting that teams only turn out to search for missing people after they have been reported to the Police as being overdue by anxious relatives, friends, etc., and then only after extensive inquiries have been carried out. The number of searches actually carried out represents only a small proportion of the total reports received by the Police of overdue people.

Main Causes of Incidents in England and Wales

Slips fell walking:	95	Of which 35 involved worn boots, smooth soled training shoes, or wellingtons. Most resulted in fractures or injury to the lower leg
Slips fell walking on snow:	8	Of which 2 involved lack of crampons/ice axe.
Falls climbing and abseiling: Roped	22	Of which 5 involved breaking handholds.
: solo	5	And 1 involved an incorrectly fastened waistbelt coming undone
Belay or runner failure: climbing	7	Mainly nuts coming out 1 in-situ peg broken.
: abseiling	1	(sling jumped off peg, not tied in, only looped over.
Snow avalanche : climbing	1	In Derbyshire
Rock fall : walking	2	
: climbing	1	
Lightning strike :	2	(1 fatal)
Inexperience / Ignorance		(journey too demanding, load too heavy, lack of fitness or training, poor navigation, poor route planning, etc.)
: summer	39	Resulting in collapse (exhaustion / exposure or benightment or stranded.
: winter	14	
Inexperience/Ignorance		
(Lack of adequate personal clothing):	6	Resulting in exposure
Inexperience/stupidity		
(Benightment - set off too late, no torch)	23	Of which 23 occurred between October and March

<u>Recorded Injuries</u>	Walking	Walking on snow	Rock Climbing	Snow/Ice Climbing	Non Mountain	TOTAL
Lower Leg	68	6	13	0	0	87
Upper Leg	1	0	2	0	0	3
Pelvis	2	0	2	1	1	6
Chest	5	1	3	0	0	9
Back - bruising	5	1	3	0	0	9
Back - spinal fracture	4	1	7	1	0	12
Internal	1	0	0	0	0	1
Arm	8	1	4	0	1	14
Minor Head - scalp wounds	18	1	8	0	0	27
Major head - fractured skull FATAL	8	0	4	0	0	12
- fractured skull non-fatal	5	0	3	0	0	8
Multiple abrasions	8	2	4	0	1	15
Exhaustion/exposure (mild)- summer	25	0	0	0	0	25
- winter	8	2	0	1	0	11
Severe hypothermia - FATAL summer	1	0	0	0	0	1
- FATAL winter	0	0	0	0	0	0
- non-fatal summer	2	0	0	0	0	2
- non-fatal winter	6	0	0	0	0	6
Heart attack - FATAL	12	0	0	0	0	12
- non-fatal	4	0	0	0	0	4

Comments:

1. Nearly half of the leg injuries to fell walkers involved smooth soled footwear.
2. Of the 15 climbers suffering head injuries, 8 were not wearing helmets.
3. Fatal heart attacks still feature prominently, mainly men 40 years and over.

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