

## MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE

### Mountain Team Incident Report (England and Wales) 1986

#### Comments

During 1986 Mountain Rescue teams answered calls for aid from 538 people in varying degrees of distress on our Welsh and English hills. The 48 teams involved were called out 376 times so on average at least one of our teams were in action every day of the year.

The total number of casualties was about the same from 1985 which in turn had shown a welcome and significant fall over the previous year. Points of relevance from the incidents

1. Fatalities - 20 or 50% from heart attacks on our hills.
  - 11 or 25% from "Non-Mountain" accidents - if hand gliding, suicide, occupational accidents, drowning on all of which our teams were called on to give their assistance.
  - 4 or 10% rock or ice climbing accidents.
  - 6 or 15% fell walkers, caused mainly by slips, mainly on snow/ice covered slopes.
2. Accidents caused by lack of experience, poor footwear, incompetence etc., many of which were preventable if the basic appreciation of potential dangers on our hills are ignored - 220 people were given aid in 1986 who were deficient in one or more of the foregoing shortcomings.

Of these

- 56 had most unsuitable footwear.
- 24 fell walkers involved in accidents on snow/ice conditions had neither ice axes nor crampons.
- 12 climbers with head injuries - no helmets worn. 11 climbers fell whilst solo climbing or scrambling

3. Organised Walks - The need for those responsible to ensure that involved walkers are properly briefed, clad, shod and equipped and capable was highlighted from our S.W. England teams over 2 days 17 - 18th May on the Ten Tors Expedition - 2400 mainly young people participated - 600 finished - weather conditions were "FOUL" and between 500/600 people had to be assisted because of exhaustion, sprains and many recorded cases of hypothermia.

4. Clothing - Equipment - In spite of the above comments the % of climbers and fell walkers badly equipped is appreciably less than in previous years. The improvement in these matters is most visible on our hills and especially in the increasing numbers of climbers/fell walkers who take advantage as/when snow and ice conditions prevail. HOWEVER there is an increasing need now to ensure effective training facilities on how to use axes and crampons.

5. Final Point - Again it must be stressed that the numbers of accidents on our hills must be kept in proportion to the increasing numbers who are finding the joys of climbing or fell walking.

BRYAN STILLING - March 1987.

**MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE**

**Mountain Incident Report (England and Wales) 1986**

	Lake Dist	N.E Eng	Yorks Dales	Mid Penn	Peak Dist	North Wales	South Wales	S.W Eng	Total 1985	Total 1986
Rock Climbing	13 13 (1)		4 4		7 7	8 9 (1)		1 1	49 50 (4)	33 34 (2)
Snow/Ice Climbing	2 4					2 3 (2)			12 16 (1)	4 7 (2)
Fell-Walking Apr-Oct	71 78 (8)	10 22 (1)	12 14 (1)	7 8 (3)	18 19 (1)	29 31 (2)	2 2 (1)	4 12	169 181 (16)	153 208 (17)
Fell-Walking Nov-Mar	35 40 (6)	3 4	3 3	3 3	13 14 (1)	13 16 (2)	2 3 (1)	1 1	64 67 (8)	73 84 (18)
Searches Injured	2 3				1 1	3 4		1 1 (1)	13 20 (3)	7 9 (1)
Searches Non-injured	23 54	3 5	6 10	2 3	6 27	12 28	2 2	6 10	58 152	60 139
Crag-fast Non-injured	6 14	1 2			2 10	8 21		2 2	23 56	19 49
Non-Mountain	10 12 (3)	3 3 (1)	2 2	4 4 (3)	3 4 (1)	4 4 (2)	1 1 (1)		15 18 (8)	27 30 (11)
Totals -Incidents -People -Fatalities	162 218 (18)	20 36 (2)	27 33 (1)	16 18 (6)	50 82 (3)	79 116 (9)	7 8 (3)	15 27 (1)	403 556 (40)	376 538 (41)
RAF H'cop Rescue Search	27 2	1 2	4 1	2 1	2 3	37 5	1 2	7	22 56	74 23
S.A.R.D.A	19	6	7	2	8	7	3	11	42	63

Notes:

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. Middle line in each classification indicates the number of people assisted
4. Bottom number (in brackets) indicates the fatalities
5. Non-mountain classification refers to non-mountain related incidents such as aircraft crashes/missing lake incidents, road traffic accidents, town searches etc.
6. Fell walking classification includes orienteering, fell running and rock/snow scrambling
7. Search classification (injured and non-injured) involves mountain incidents where people are reported lost/overdue/benighted/missing, from whatever cause
8. Climbing, walking and cragfast incidents involve evacuation/assistance from a know mountain location

**FREQUENCY OF INJURIES - England and Wales 1986**

	Walking	Walking on snow	Climbing		Non-Moun	Total 1984	Total 1985	Total 1986
			Rock	Snow/Ice				
Lower Leg	63	22	7	2		94	111	94
Upper Leg	8	4	1			12	19	13
Pelvis/Spine	7	4	1	1			11	13
Chest	2	1	1	1		8	5	5
Back Bruising	5	2	2			10	17	9
Back Fracture	1	1	2	1		6	9	5
Internal	1	2	1	1		8	5	5
Arm/Shoulder	8	1	3			22	13	12
Head Fatal	5	6	2	1		28	14	18
Head Fatal No Helmet Climbing			3			-	-	-
Head Non-Fatal	16	15	3	1		44	27	44
Head Non-Fatal No Helmet (Climbing)				9				
Multiple Abrasion	2	2	2	1		15	11	7
Exhaustion	Summer	16	8			23	31	24
	Winter	3	2			28	16	5
Hypothermia	Fatal Summer	1			2			3
	Fatal Winter				2		1	2
	<b>Non-Fatal Summer</b>	12				5	16	12
	<b>Non-Fatal Winter</b>	6	17			1	8	22
Heart Attack - Fatal - Non-Fatal		16	4			14	17	20
		7	3			21	12	10
Drowning					4	1	2	4
Illness	13	5			3	15	16	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>350</b>

MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS - England and Wales 1986

CAUSE		Lake Dist	N.E Eng.	Yorks Dales	Mid Penn.	Peak Dist	North Wales	South Wales	S.W Eng.	Total 1985	Total 1986
Slips Fell Walking	Footwear Satisfactory	31	2	5	1	8	10	1	3	88	61
	Smooth Sole or Unsuitably shod	19	4	8	2	10	11	2		63	56
Slips Fell Walking	No Ice Axe +/or Crampons	20				2	2			14	24
	Suitably Snow/Ice Equipped	8					9			11	17
Falls Rock Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	6		1		3	3			19	13
	Solo	7			2	1	1			15	11
Falls Snow/Ice Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	3								6	3
	Solo	3					2			3	5
Belay or Runner Failure	Climbing			3		2	1		2	10	8
	Abseiling					1				3	1
Rockfall		4		1			2			8	7
Avalanche		2		1			2			2	5
Inexperience Incompetence Ignorance Resulting in Exposure Exhaustion or "Lost"	April to October	33	22	3	3	20	43	4		90	139
	November to March	8	5	2	4	13	19	3	3	77	57
Suicide		2			1					3	3
Attempted Suicide					2	1	1			7	4