



Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

Incident Report 1988

(Revised 28/11/2007)

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MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE
INCIDENT REPORT (England and Wales) 1988

1988 tragically again showed an increase of accidents on our Welsh and English mountain and moorland areas and the total number of incidents dealt with by our mountain rescue teams at 540 as opposed to 376 two years ago and 504 last year, illustrates the rising toll.

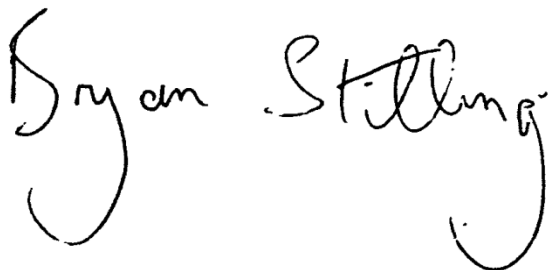
Although the fatalities dealt with increased to 58 compared with 50 for 1987 and 41 for 1986 it must be stressed that, as in previous years, 50% of these tragic events were not caused by accidents but by heart attacks on the hills, by non-mountain type accidents or drowning. They do, however, highlight the essential role which our teams are providing for those in distress on our hills.

Injuries dealt with in 1988 at 428 were comparable with 1987 but there was a significant increase in people lost on our hills and moors - in some cases the efficient and timely arrival of our search teams probably prevented the injury or fatality toll for the year being further increased.

The increasing involvement of our Mountain Rescue Teams on incidents outside our mountain areas highlighted by the Lockerbie tragedy this year and of the number of team call outs on either false alarms (mostly with good intent), or aborted as the teams have assembled, must also be recognised. Many of these team involvements are not recorded and I estimate (following a survey in the Lakes) that the total number of incidents or involvements by our teams in 1988 is in the region of 600/625 a year, or an average of 12/13 teams on duty every week plus of course the uncalculated time given on exercises, organisation, fund raising etc - all given with the unique fellowship of those who care.

Lessons from 1988 still reiterate the need for respect for our hills and moorland areas which the number of incidents caused by lack of training, poor equipment, ignorance again highlights.

A reminder again that the attached incidents toll on our hills and moors must be set against the millions of people who do both respect them and enjoy them in safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Stilling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'B' and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

BRYAN STILLING

April 1989

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE Mountain Incident Report 1988 (England and Wales)

	Lake Dist	N.E Eng	Yorks Dales	Mid Penn	Peak Dist	North Wales	South Wales	S.W Eng	Total 1986	Total 1987	Total 1988
Rock Climbing	15 16 (1)	2 2	5 5		11 12	19 22 (2)	2 3	4 4	33 34 (2)	55 59 (3)	58 64 (3)
Snow/Ice Climbing	5 5	1 5 (2)				9 10 (1)			4 7 (2)	10 17 (1)	15 20 (3)
Fell-Walking Apr-Oct	99 109 (8)	8 8	9 13 (2)	5 6 (1)	25 25 (5)	31 35 (2)	10 12 (1)	3 5 (1)	153 208 (17)	197 223 (23)	185 208 (20)
Fell-Walking Nov-Mar	53 62 (6)	4 4	3 3	8 9 (1)	6 6 (2)	15 19 (3)	3 3	1 1	73 84 (18)	84 109 (10)	93 107 (12)
Searches Injured	5 8 (3)	7 7 (3)	1 1		2 3	3 4 (2)		3 8	7 9 (1)	11 14 (1)	21 31 (8)
Searches Non-injured	30 77	16 20	4 5	3 3	6 17	16 32	7 15	9 35	60 139	87 183	91 204
Crag-fast Non-injured	11 30	1 1	1 1		2 2	15 28	1 1	5 7	19 49	28 48	36 70
Non-Mountain	5 5 (1)	4 6	2 2	8 11 (3)	4 4 (1)	8 12 (5)	5 5 (2)		27 30 (11)	32 51 (12)	36 45 (12)
Totals- Incidents -People Involved	223 312 (19)	43 53 (5)	25 30 (2)	24 29 (5)	56 69 (8)	116 162 (15)	28 39 (3)	25 60 (1)	376 538 (41)	504 700 (50)	540 754 (58)
RAF H'cop Rescue Search	25 6	1 1	2	1	9 1	42 12	3	3 6	74 23	86 22	80 26
S.A.R.D.A	23	3	2	9	8	15	3	11	63	65	74

MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS - England and Wales 1988

CAUSE		Lake Dist	N.E Eng.	Yorks Dales	Mid Penn.	Peak Dist	North Wales	South Wales	S.W Eng.	Total 1986	Total 1987	Total 1988
Slips Fell Walking	Footwear Satisfactory	40	5	2	4	10	22	6	4	61	75	93
	Smooth Sole or Unsuitably shod	25	3	7	3	7	14	2	1	56	64	62
Slips Fell Walking	No Ice Axe +/-or Crampons	15					4			24	8	19
	Suitably Snow/Ice Equipped	12					8			17	9	20
Falls Rock Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	8		2		1	6		1	13	20	18
	Solo	6	2	2	1	5	7			11	13	23
Falls Snow/Ice Climbing or Abseiling	Roped	3					1			3	2	4
	Solo	3	1				2			5	3	6
Belay or Runner Failure	Climbing	3	1	1		2	1	1	1	8	10	10
	Abseiling	1		1	1	2	2			1	5	7
Rockfall		5				1	5	1	1	7	9	13
Avalanche		4	1							5		5
Inexperience Incompetence Ignorance Resulting in Exposure Exhaustion or "Lost"	April to October	47	16	7	4	13	34	7	14	139	168	142
	November to March	22	5	4	2	11	26	5	9	57	70	84
Suicide		1	2		1	1				3	3	5
Attempted Suicide							1	3		4	7	4
Lightning Strike		2										2

FREQUENCY OF INJURIES - England and Wales 1988

		Walking	Walking	Climbing		Non-Moun	Total 1986	Total 1987	Total 1988
			on snow	Rock	Snow/Ice				
Lower Leg		89	10	7	2	2	94	97	110
Upper Leg		17	5	4	4	2	13	28	32
Pelvis/Spine		8	1	3	4	2	13	12	18
Chest		4	1	2	4	2	5	9	11
Back	Bruising	6	2	4	3	2	9	13	17
	Fracture	1	1	2		1	5	7	5
Internal		4	1	4		1	5	6	10
Arm/Shoulder		15	3	7	1		12	16	26
Head Fatal		4	2	1		1	15	10	8
Head Fatal No Helmet Climbing				2	2		3	3	4
Head Non-Fatal		19	7	5			28	29	31
Head Non-Fatal No Helmet (Climbing)				8	1		16	15	9
Multiple Abrasion		3	3	2		1	7	8	9
Exhaustion	Summer	26					24	21	27
	Winter	4	6				5	19	10
Hypothermia	Fatal-Summer						3	-	-
	Fatal-Winter	1	1				2	3	2
	Non-Fatal-Summer	11					12	26	11
	Non-Fatal-Winter	9	2				24	20	11
Heart Attack - Fatal		15	2				20	18	17
- Non-Fatal		8	2				24	20	10
Drowning		3				3	4	4	6
Illness		24				3	21	30	27
TOTAL		260	41	51	20	18	50	414	417