



Mountain Rescue Council

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

Incident Report 1993

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MOUNTAIN RESCUE COUNCIL

ENGLAND AND WALES

INCIDENT REPORT 1993

This years incidents and accidents in England and Wales are summarised as follows:

| | INCIDENTS | FATALITIES | INJURED | TOTAL PERSONS ASSISTED |
|------|-----------|------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1993 | 610 | 53 | 323 | 902 excluding non-mountain |
| 1992 | 649 | 62 | 582 | 998 |

This years Incident Statistics report for England and Wales is presented in broadly the same format as previous years. The non-mountain figures have been separated from the mountain incidents.

All clinical diagnoses and causes of incidents are those made on the spot; not all incidents have follow up reports from a Coroners Court or hospital.

In spite of a new, inexperienced eye sifting the reports, there has been a gratifying comparison with previous years statistics. However, minute comparisons will not be valid as a new collator will have a different perception of incidents, and indeed is still learning to read between the lines of a report.

There is a new category of incident under the heading of "Other Sports Activities". This includes all legitimate hill and moorland recreation other than walking or climbing.

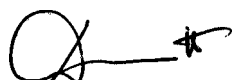
Incidents in the Lakeland category of "Beck scrambling" remain, for the moment, as Winter/Summer Walking incidents. This is because:

1. It is an activity considered more likely to be pursued by walkers.
2. Until and unless the activity is recognised and reported by all regions, there will be no consistency.

The figures for FOOTWEAR GOOD have been removed. Recent changes in footwear technology (and fashion) make criticism of footwear very subjective. The days when hobnail boots were the walker's norm are long gone. The figures for inadequate footwear are so inconsistent with previous years figures that they have not been reported. In essence, the Stats Officer must have made an error in his collation.

The Rescue Teams have, during the year, given over 20000 man-hours to 78 non-mountain incidents, involving 89 persons, of which 16 were unfortunately fatalities.

Finally, 40 sheep and a cow were rescued for local farmers.



D A C Noott.
Hon Statistics Officer.

MOUNTAIN INCIDENT REPORT 1993

| Type | Lake Dist | NE Eng | York Dales | Mid Pen | Peak Dist | North Wales | South Wales | SW Eng | Total 1993 | Total 1992 | Total 1991 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| ROCK CLIMBING | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 12 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 51 | 67 | 70 |
| Casualties | 20 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 63 | 74 | 81 |
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (2) | (4) | 0 | 0 | (6) | (3) | (4) |
| SNOW/ICE CLIMBING | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Casualties | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 22 |
| Fatalities | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (1) | (1) | (2) |
| FELL WALK (Apr-Oct) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 184 | 13 | 21 | 7 | 30 | 44 | 20 | 10 | 329 | 242 | 214 |
| Casualties | 253 | 27 | 24 | 13 | 37 | 78 | 70 | 31 | 533 | 219 | 262 |
| Fatalities | (14) | 0 | 0 | (1) | (3) | (5) | 0 | 0 | (23) | (25) | (18) |
| FELL WALK (Nov-Mar) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 68 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 32 | 5 | 3 | 138 | 104 | 80 |
| Casualties | 97 | 15 | 8 | 3 | 19 | 44 | 7 | 8 | 201 | 127 | 98 |
| Fatalities | (5) | 0 | (3) | 0 | (1) | (2) | (2) | 0 | (13) | (6) | (12) |
| SEARCHES INJURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 11 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 23 | 28 | 19 |
| Casualties | 17 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 35 | 40 | 31 |
| Fatalities | (3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (2) | (1) | 0 | (6) | (1) | (4) |
| SEARCHES UNINJURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 48 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 15 | 9 | 112 | 166 | 125 |
| Persons | 128 | 27 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 51 | 62 | 36 | 328 | 287 | 262 |
| CRAGFAST UNHURT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 40 | 58 |
| Persons | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 65 | 79 |
| TOTAL MOUNTAIN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 317 | 33 | 31 | 17 | 71 | 99 | 29 | 13 | 610 | 649 | 584 |
| Persons | 451 | 56 | 35 | 21 | 80 | 136 | 82 | 41 | 902 | 998 | 870 |
| TOTAL INJURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 323 | 29 | 33 | 18 | 61 | 85 | 20 | 5 | 574 | 578 | 465 |
| FATALITIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mountain | (23) | (2) | (8) | (1) | (6) | (11) | (2) | 0 | (53) | (60) | (65) |
| Non-Mountain | (2) | (2) | 0 | (4) | (3) | (3) | (3) | 0 | (17) | | |
| HELICOPTERS (inc Non-Mountain) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 65 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 55 | 12 | 3 | 149 | | |
| SEARCH | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 29 | 111 | |
| RESCUE | 60 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 52 | 1 | 0 | 116 | 103 | 101 |
| NON-MOUNTAIN | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 12 | N/R | N/R |
| SARDA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 21 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 54 | | |
| OTHER ACTIVITIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paragliding | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | |
| Hang gliding | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | |
| Mountain Bike | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 15 | | |
| Trail Bike | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Equestrian | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | | |
| Orient/Run | 5 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 15 | | |
| Toboggan/Ski | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Aquatic | 4(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4(2) | | |
| Aircraft | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NON-MOUNTAIN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidents | 11 | 10 | 0 | 19 | 17 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 86 | | |
| Persons | 13 | 10 | 0 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 87 | | |
| Fatalities | (2) | (1) | 0 | (4) | (3) | (3) | (2) | (1) | (16) | | |
| SARDA | 2 | 7 | 0 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 48 | | |

FREQUENCY OF INJURIES - ENGLAND AND WALES 1993

| Type | Fell Walking Winter | Fell Walking Summer | Rock Climb | Snow /Ice Climb | Other Sports | Total 1993 | Total 1992 | Total 1991 | Total 1990 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Lower Leg, Knee & Foot | 52 | 120 | 18 | 0 | 20 | 210 | 184 | 117 | 152 |
| Upper leg | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 13 | 50 | 43 | 43 |
| Pelvis & Spine | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 18 | 20 | 20 |
| Chest | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 12 |
| Back - Bruising | 5 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 18 |
| Back - Fracture | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| Neck | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| Internal | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Arm & Shoulder | 7 | 20 | 12 | 1 | 14 | 54 | 29 | 25 | 16 |
| Head fatal No helmet | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 13 | 5 |
| Head fatal With helmet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Head injury No helmet | 7 | 22 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 41 | 43 | 40 | 36 |
| Head injury With helmet | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Multiple Abrasions | 3 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 8 |
| Exhaustion Summer | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 23 | 19 | 31 |
| Exhaustion Winter | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 7 |
| Hypothermia Fatal Summer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Hypothermia Fatal Winter | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Hypothermia Non-Fatal Summer | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 23 | 12 | 16 |
| Hypothermia Non-Fatal Winter | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 30 | 22 | 11 |
| Heart Attack Fatal | 6 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 28 | 26 | 13 |
| Heart attack Non-fatal | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 6 |
| Illness | 5 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 39 | 34 | 33 |
| Drowning Mountain | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 | |
| Drowning Non-mountain | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | | |

MAIN CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS - ENGLAND AND WALES 1993

| | TOTALS 1993 | TOTALS 1992 | TOTALS 1991 | TOTALS 1990 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Slips fell walking poor footwear (now recorded elsewhere) | N/R | 102 | 103 | 122 |
| Slips fell walking snow/ice conditions | 35 | 14 | 11 | 10 |
| No axe + crampons | 33 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| Falls rock climbing or abseiling | | | | |
| Roped | 11 | 16 | 22 | 17 |
| Solo | 40 | 13 | 25 | 22 |
| Falls ice/snow climbing or abseiling | | | | |
| Roped | 0 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Solo | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Belay or runner failure | | | | |
| Climbing | 4 | 17 | 12 | 17 |
| Abseiling | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Rock fall | 3 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Avalanche | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Collapses (medical) | | | | |
| Fatal | 25 | 26 | 27 | 14 |
| Non-fatal | 15 | 48 | 11 | 37 |
| Inexperience/ignorance/incompetence & footwear | | | | |
| April-October | 20 | 91 | 100 | 118 |
| November-March | 8 | 53 | 55 | 68 |
| Suicide | 2 | 4 | 13 | 7 |
| Attempted suicide | ? | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| Lightning strike | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aircraft | 2 (3) | | | |
| False alarm | 30 | | | |
| Hoax | 3 | | | |
| Other sport | 47 | | | |