



Mountain Rescue Council

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

Incident Report 2001

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Mountain Rescue Council – England and Wales

Incident Report 2001

This year's mountain incident and accidents in England and Wales are summarised as follows: -

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2001	421	18	274	518
2000	679	19	435	916
1999	635	37	390	835
1998	628	26	444	810
1997	695	19	512	925
1996	697	27	538	1059

It will not have gone unnoticed that the countryside has been shut down for a large period of 2001. Foot and Mouth disease, and its control, has affected large areas of the UK regularly used by people pursuing outdoor activities. It will not surprise readers that the figures have been significantly affected, especially in those regions where the disease held sway. The overall 39% drop in incidents varies between regions, but they have all borne the impact.

Given this reduction in activity, it would have been nice to have again reported a reduction in fatalities; this increase has come as quite a surprise. The explanation lies in the number of heart attacks recorded immediately after resumption of access to the uplands. The inference is fairly clear that people may well not have maintained their fitness during the period of closure.

There is still much evidence in the incident reports of poor preparation of the activity. Equipment, clothing and footwear do not appear as significant issues any more; the main focus of attention has to be in the experience of the person concerned. Many of the incidents reported appear to stem from people making decisions that take them well beyond their training and experience. This finding may be apparent to many people, but it is a point that has to be made regularly, in the hope that people will temper their urge to extend themselves too far beyond their control.

This year's non-mountain incidents are summarised as follows:

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured ¹	Persons assisted
2001	277	51	75	235
2000	320	46	86	277
1999	277	29	87	260
1998	250	44	71	242
1997	185	26	49	163
1996	213	21		411

1. Comparable figures before 1997 are not available

As regards non-mountain incidents, the service continues to assist the emergency services with incidents that require teams' skills in access and working in difficult conditions. Whilst all teams have a background in mountaineering, the skills learnt there are applicable in many other surroundings and situations. This has been recently recognised by government at the highest level in the work of the UK SAR committees. It is fair to say that this work will have tangible benefits for everyone in the years to come.

Ged Feeney.

Ged Feeney
MRC Statistics Collator

Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2001 to 31/12/2001.

The report confines itself to those leisure activities that are mountain or wilderness-related to which Mountain Rescue Teams were summoned. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals may not sum to 100% because of the round up error in the rows.

Fellwalking is a general category covering all instances of walking for pleasure, away from easy road or track access. The categories of summer and winter refer to the prevailing conditions reported at the time of the incident; it does not refer to any calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Fell Running	Incidents	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	1.2
	Subjects	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	1.0
Fell Walking - summer	Incidents	130	7	11	41	32	7	4	9	241	57.0
	Subjects	169	11	11	49	36	8	4	9	297	57.1
Fell Walking - summer (DoE)	Incidents	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	5	1.2
	Subjects	0	0	0	4	10	0	0	0	14	2.7
Fell Walking - winter	Incidents	31	2	2	4	5	0	0	0	44	10.4
	Subjects	36	2	2	10	6	0	0	0	56	10.8
Mountain Biking	Incidents	6	4	6	1	2	2	0	0	21	5.0
	Subjects	6	4	7	1	2	1	0	0	21	4.0
Orienteering	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.5
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0.6
Parapenting	Incidents	1	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	8	1.9
	Subjects	1	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	8	1.5
Rescue Team Exercise	Incidents	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0.9
	Subjects	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0.8
Rock Climbing	Incidents	6	1	0	10	11	0	0	2	30	7.1
	Subjects	5	1	0	12	11	0	0	2	31	6.0
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	2	1	1	34	4	0	0	1	43	10.2
	Subjects	2	2	1	58	4	0	0	1	68	13.1
Search*	Incidents	6	1	1	3	3	1	1	0	16	3.8
	Subjects	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	7	1.3
Snow / Ice Climbing	Incidents	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.5
	Subjects	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.8
Totals	Incidents	187	23	21	95	65	10	8	12	421	99.5
	Subjects	227	29	21	135	74	10	10	12	518	99.6

* This category includes those activities not covered by the rest, where the subjects had either strayed, become lost, or whose whereabouts were otherwise unknown.

Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2001 to 31/12/2001.

The report confines itself to those leisure activities that are mountain or wilderness-related to which Mountain Rescue Teams were summoned. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals may not sum to 100% because of the round up error in the rows.

Fellwalking is a general category covering all instances of walking for pleasure, away from easy road or track access. The categories of summer and winter refer to the prevailing conditions reported at the time of the incident; it does not refer to any calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Fell Running	Uninjured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Injured	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fell Walking - summer	Uninjured	90	7	3	19	8	4	2	0	133	25.6
	Injured	75	4	8	29	24	4	2	7	153	29.4
	Fatal	4	0	0	1	4	0	0	2	11	2.1
Fell Walking - summer (DoE)	Uninjured	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	12	2.3
	Injured	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fell Walking - winter	Uninjured	13	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	20	3.8
	Injured	21	2	1	6	4	0	0	0	34	6.5
	Fatal	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
	Injured	6	4	5	1	2	1	0	0	19	3.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Orienteering	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0.4
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Parapenting	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	8	1.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rescue Team Exercise	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.2
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	1.0
	Injured	4	1	0	5	11	0	0	2	23	4.4
	Fatal	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0.6
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	0	0	0	41	3	0	0	1	45	8.7
	Injured	2	2	1	17	1	0	0	0	23	4.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Search*	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0.6
	Injured	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.2
Snow / Ice Climbing	Uninjured	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.6
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	106	8	6	73	22	4	6	1	226	43.5
	Injured	114	21	15	59	48	5	3	9	274	52.7
	Fatal	7	0	0	3	4	1	1	2	18	3.5

* This category includes those activities not covered by the rest, where the subjects had either strayed, become lost, or whose whereabouts were otherwise unknown.

Non-Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2001 to 31/12/2001.

The report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness activities. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals may not sum to 100% because of the round up error in the rows.

The search category covers mainly urban, coastline or lowland areas with good road access. Local incidents reflect assistance given to local communities and emergency services during severe weather or in cases of access difficulties etc.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Birdwatching	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Cave/Mine Exploration	Incidents	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.7
	Subjects	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.9
Local Incident	Incidents	10	24	8	4	12	3	0	5	66	23.8
	Subjects	7	9	7	2	7	3	0	6	41	17.4
Pony Trekking	Incidents	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1.1
	Subjects	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1.3
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.7
	Subjects	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	11	44	53	10	23	36	18	0	195	70.4
	Subjects	9	41	51	9	21	31	18	0	180	76.6
Sledging	Incidents	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.1
	Subjects	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.3
Water Sports (all types)	Incidents	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	1.8
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	1.7
Totals	Incidents	25	72	63	15	37	41	19	5	277	100.0
	Subjects	19	53	60	12	30	36	19	6	235	100.0

Non-Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2001 to 31/12/2001.

The report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness activities. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals may not sum to 100% because of the round up error in the rows.

The search category covers mainly urban, coastline or lowland areas with good road access. Local incidents reflect assistance given to local communities and emergency services during severe weather or in cases of access difficulties etc.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Birdwatching	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Cave/Mine Exploration	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Local Incident	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	2.1
	Injured	4	8	7	1	5	2	0	0	27	11.5
	Fatal	3	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	9	3.8
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.4
Road Traffic Accident	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	4	27	27	3	11	18	14	0	104	44.3
	Injured	2	10	10	6	4	5	3	0	40	17.0
	Fatal	3	4	14	0	6	8	1	0	36	15.3
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sports (all types)	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	1.7
Totals	Uninjured	4	27	27	3	11	18	14	5	109	46.4
	Injured	8	20	19	8	10	7	3	0	75	31.9
	Fatal	7	6	14	1	9	11	2	1	51	21.7

Main Causes of Mountain Incidents

This report covers the period from 01/01/2001 to 31/12/2001, during which time 419 incidents were reported.

This report summarises the main causes of Mountain Accidents. It is based on a search of key words used in incident reports. All causes have not been listed, so the column totals may not agree with the total number of incidents. A typical report will illustrate another problem with totals:-

'...tripped on footpath whilst walking and fell 2 metres onto rocky ground.'

This will result in contributions to the 'Slip, Trip or Stumble' and the 'Fall or Tumble' categories.

Causes	Col. 1 Fellwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Fellwalking (winter)	Col. 3 Rock Climbing	Col. 4 Snow / Ice Climbing	Col. 5 Other Activities)	Col. 6 Total	Col. 7 Percentage
Avalanche	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Belay / Runner Failure	0	0	3	0	0	3	0.7
Benighted	15	0	0	0	0	15	3.6
Cragfast	11	2	14	1	0	28	6.7
Fall or Tumble	46	5	35	1	16	103	24.6
Lightening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Lost	34	4	4	0	1	43	10.3
Medical Collapse or Illness	23	1	1	0	0	25	6.0
Overdue or Missing	29	7	2	0	3	41	9.8
Rockfall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	6	0	0	0	6	12	2.9
Slip, Trip or Stumble	92	27	15	1	0	135	32.2
Unable to Continue	11	2	3	1	1	18	4.3

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Fell Running and Orienteering.

Col. 2 This category is based on the prevailing weather and ground conditions at the time, not on a calendar period. It includes those incidents involving D of E expeditions conducted in wintry conditions.

Col. 3 This includes incidents of Rock Scrambling and Abseiling.

Col. 5 This groups all the remaining mountain activities of Mountain Biking, Hang Gliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing and Mountain Searches.

Col. 7 This is a percentage of all Mountain Incidents reported.

Main Sites & Types of Injury

This report covers the period from 01/01/2001 to 31/12/2001, during which time 390 incidents were reported.

This report summarises the main sites and types of injuries dealt with by MR Teams. It is based on a search of key words used in incident reports.

Injury Site / Type	Col. 1 Fellwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Fellwalking (winter)	Col. 3 Rock Climbing	Col. 4 Snow / Ice Climbing	Col. 5 Other Activities)	Col. 6 Non - Mountain	Col. 7 Total
Lower Leg & Foot	71	14	11	2	7	9	114
Upper Leg & Knee	22	3	5	0	2	7	39
Pelvis	3	0	4	0	2	1	10
Abdomen	1	0	1	0	1	1	4
Chest & Shoulder	9	3	9	0	5	7	33
Back & Neck	6	1	14	0	5	7	33
Arm & Hand	10	2	2	0	3	5	22
Head	15	2	15	0	3	9	44
Fractures	72	19	15	1	9	19	135
Lacerations etc	15	1	7	1	2	4	30
Exhaustion	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
Hypothermia	5	2	0	0	1	13	21
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	3	1	1	0	0	1	6
Heart Attack (fatal)	10	0	0	0	0	4	14
Illness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Fell Running and Orienteering.

Col. 2 This category is based on the prevailing weather and ground conditions at the time, not on a calendar period. It includes those incidents involving D of E expeditions conducted in wintry conditions.

Col. 3 This includes incidents of Rock Scrambling and Abseiling.

Col. 5 This groups all the remaining mountain activities of Mountain Biking, Hang Gliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing and Mountain Searches.

Col. 6 This groups all the non-mountain incidents as detailed on pages 4 & 5 of this report.

Specialist Resources & Other Details

This report covers the period from 01/01/2001 to 31/12/2001, during which time 729 incidents were reported.

This report summarises the specialist resources used during incidents dealt with by MR teams. It is detailed on a regional basis, with explanations given as footnotes to each row. The percentage calculations (rounded to 1 dec pl.) are based on the total number of incidents reported by MR teams.

Category	Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
1. Incidents Attended by Helicopter	40	43	22	64	39	20	16	8	252	34.6
2. Helicopters Used for Evacuation	31	10	2	50	16	2	4	8	123	16.9
3. Helicopters Used for Searching	3	28	19	11	17	17	14	0	109	15.0
4. Helicopters Used for Deployment	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	0.8
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	27	20	17	8	15	28	7	0	122	16.7
6. Search Dog Finds	6	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	11	1.5
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	50	4	20	2	47	1	0	0	124	17.0
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	88	25	2	53	40	2	4	0	214	29.4
9. Animal Rescues	16	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	22	3.0

- Notes:
- Row 1. The number of incidents where a helicopter or fixed wing aircraft (military, police or ambulance) was called to or attended the scene of an incident.
- Row 2. The number of times the aircraft was used to evacuate the casualty(ies) from the scene of the incident.
- Row 3. The number of instances when the aircraft was employed to search for the missing subject(s).
- Row 4. The number of occasions when the aircraft was used to deploy personnel and/or equipment to remote locations.
- Row 5. The number of incidents where Mountain Rescue Search Dogs were called to or attended an incident.
- Row 6. The number of instances where the subject was located by an MR Search Dog and handler.
- Row 7. The number of incidents where a doctor attended the scene of an incident - in most cases, these doctors were members of MR Teams.
- Row 8. The number of incidents initiated by the person(s) requiring assistance using a mobile phone. In addition, the mobile phone may have been used by this person during the course of the incident, especially in a search.
- Row 9. The number of animal rescues where a team has been requested by the police, local farmer or owner - these include cragfast sheep, dogs stuck on crags or down sink holes or larger animals unable to exit a deep gorge or stream bed.