



Mountain Rescue Council

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue Council England & Wales

Incident Report 2002

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Mountain Rescue Council – England and Wales

Incident Report 2002

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

Table 1

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2002	655	23	438	824
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

Following the closing of the countryside during 2001 as a result of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, wilderness activities and their related accidents seem to have returned to their previous levels. There are no startling trends exhibited in the figures but there some causes for concern in certain areas and particular activities.

The number of deaths while rock scrambling has remained at its present level for four years without any reduction. Unlike rock climbing where sophisticated safety systems protect climbers from significant injury or death, in rock scrambling this is absent. The participants rely solely on their ability to move safely over less steep and intimidating rock than is the case in rock climbing. There is also a reduced feeling in the minds of the participants of scrambling of the consequences of an accident, leading many not to wear helmets. And yet these locations are more prone to loose rock and to fallers hitting rocks on their descents! Guidebook writers and periodicals must continue to give basic safety advice to participants at all levels if we are to see any reduction in future figures.

The number of incidents involving mountain bikers is steadily increasing. The nature of the sport usually means that injuries are more serious in spite of the safety equipment regularly worn by riders. Head injuries are often present even with helmets. Serious injuries to the upper chest and arms are commonplace and puncture wound with significant blood-loss are regularly seen. Riders need to be more aware of the consequences of accidents especially when traversing difficult terrain or in slippery conditions. While the speeds involved are not massive, there are far more dangerous objects in the rider's path than is usually the case in other environments.

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

Table 2

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2002	372	56	117	293
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

As indicated in previous reports, the non-mountain aspects of teams' workload continue to increase at a steady rate, and more for some areas. The statutory emergency services have response quotas to meet, and financial limits to adhere to. Using volunteer organisations help them to fulfil their role to the benefit of society at large.

Ged Feeney.

Ged Feeney
MRC Statistics Officer

Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2002 to 31/12/2002.

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 the number of persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals do not sum to 100% because of round up error in the rows.

'Fellwalking' is a general category covering all instances of walking, 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 a calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Abseiling	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.3
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.2
Fellrunning	Incidents	6	7	3	1	3	1	0	1	22	3.4
	Subjects	6	9	16	1	2	1	0	1	36	4.4
Fellwalking - Summer	Incidents	230	20	24	78	39	27	13	26	457	69.7
	Subjects	286	16	33	107	47	31	20	42	582	70.5
Fellwalking - Summer (DoE)	Incidents	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	3	11	1.7
	Subjects	7	1	0	14	1	0	0	3	26	3.2
Fellwalking - Winter	Incidents	9	2	1	6	3	0	0	0	21	3.2
	Subjects	9	2	2	9	3	0	0	0	25	3.0
Fellwalking - Winter (DoE)	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hang Gliding	Incidents	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0.6
	Subjects	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0.4
Mountain Biking	Incidents	8	9	6	0	3	1	1	2	30	4.6
	Subjects	8	9	10	0	3	1	2	2	35	4.2
Orienteering	Incidents	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Parapenting	Incidents	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.5
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.4
Rock Climbing	Incidents	6	0	0	13	26	1	1	3	50	7.6
	Subjects	7	0	0	21	25	1	1	3	58	7.0
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	4	1	0	22	4	0	0	2	33	5.0
	Subjects	5	1	0	30	4	0	0	2	42	5.1
Searches *	Incidents	6	1	2	7	1	1	1	0	19	2.9
	Subjects	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	10	1.2
Totals	Incidents	277	44	36	128	84	32	16	38	655	100.0
	Subjects	332	42	63	185	89	35	24	54	824	99.8

* 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: 01/01/2002 to: 31/12/2002.

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 persons assisted by condition of subjects. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the percentage totals do not sum to 100% because of round up error in the rows.

'Fellwalking' is a general category covering all instances of walking, 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 a calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	Perce
Abseiling	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
Fellrunning	Uninjured	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0.5
	Injured	4	9	15	0	2	0	0	1	31	3.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Fellwalking - Summer	Uninjured	141	3	21	47	16	15	14	23	280	33.9
	Injured	138	11	11	59	30	13	6	18	286	34.7
	Fatal	7	2	1	1	1	3	0	1	16	1.9
Fellwalking - Summer (DoE)	Uninjured	4	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	18	2.2
	Injured	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	8	1.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fellwalking - Winter	Uninjured	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	8	1.0
	Injured	5	2	2	4	3	0	0	0	16	1.9
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Hang Gliding	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0.4
	Injured	7	9	10	0	3	1	0	2	32	3.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Orienteering	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	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	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	2	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	16	1.9
	Injured	5	0	0	7	25	1	1	3	42	5.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	2	1	0	19	2	0	0	1	25	3.0
	Injured	3	0	0	7	2	0	0	1	13	1.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.5
Searches *	Uninjured	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	0	8	1.0
	Injured	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	157	6	22	101	19	17	17	24	363	44.0
	Injured	167	34	40	78	69	15	7	28	438	53.2
	Fatal	8	2	1	6	1	3	0	2	23	2.7

* 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: 01/01/2002 to: 31/12/2002.

This report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness related activities. It lists the number of incidents and the number of persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals do not sum to 100% because of 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 during severe weather etc.

Action/Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	Perce
Aircrash - Civil	Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0.8
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.3
Cave/Mine Exploration	Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0.8
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	1.0
Horse / Pony Trekking	Incidents	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	7	1.9
	Subjects	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	1.4
Local Incident	Incidents	19	50	16	7	21	11	0	9	133	35.8
	Subjects	13	19	13	4	17	9	0	3	78	26.6
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	10	55	34	11	34	39	18	5	206	55.4
	Subjects	10	46	34	10	33	34	18	5	190	64.8
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	2	6	2	0	2	0	0	0	12	3.2
	Subjects	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.7
Sledging	Incidents	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.5
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.7
Water Sport	Incidents	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	6	1.6
	Subjects	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	7	2.4
Totals	Incidents	38	112	53	19	60	56	20	14	372	100.0
	Subjects	31	71	49	15	52	48	19	8	293	99.9

Non-Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2002 to: 31/12/2002.

This report restricts itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness related activities. It lists the number of persons assisted by Condition of subjects. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note that the totals do not sum to 100% because of 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 during severe weather etc.

Action / Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	South Wales	S.W. England	Yorks Dales	Total	Perce
Aircrash - Civil	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.3
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Cave/Mine Exploration	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	1.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Horse / Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1.0
	Fatal	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
Local Incident	Uninjured	2	2	4	0	1	2	0	0	11	3.8
	Injured	10	14	6	1	11	5	0	2	49	16.7
	Fatal	1	3	3	3	5	2	0	1	18	6.1
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	7	32	25	3	15	13	10	2	107	36.5
	Injured	1	9	8	4	9	13	3	1	48	16.4
	Fatal	2	5	1	3	9	8	5	2	35	11.9
Road Traffic Accident	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sport	Uninjured	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Injured	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	1.4
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.7
Totals	Uninjured	9	34	29	4	16	16	10	2	120	40.9
	Injured	18	29	15	5	22	21	4	3	117	39.9
	Fatal	4	8	5	6	14	11	5	3	56	19.0

Main Causes of Mountain Incidents

This report covers the period from: 01/01/2002 to 31/12/2002, during which 656 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.

Cause	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	1	0	1	0.2
Belay / Runner Failure	2	0	4	0	0	6	0.9
Benighted	15	0	3	0	0	18	2.7
Cragfast	21	0	16	0	0	37	5.6
Fall or Tumble	102	5	46	0	16	169	25.8
Lightening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Lost	79	1	3	0	3	86	13.1
Medical Collapse or Illness	40	2	1	0	1	44	6.7
Overdue or Missing	53	0	2	0	7	62	9.5
Rockfall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Shouts/Lights/Flares Reported	5	1	1	1	4	12	1.8
Slip, Trip or Stumble	166	12	15	0	0	193	29.4
Unable to Continue	18	0	2	0	3	23	3.5

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Fellrunning and Orienteering incidents

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, Hanggliding, 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: 01/01/2002 to 31/12/2002, during which 656 casualties were reported.

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

Injury Type / Site	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	127	4	19	1	10	12	173
Upper Leg & Knee	42	3	11	0	4	8	68
Pelvis	10	2	1	0	1	6	20
Abdomen	1	0	2	0	1	7	11
Chest & Shoulder	25	2	12	0	7	11	57
Back & Neck	12	0	14	0	4	19	49
Arm & Hand	14	1	4	0	3	7	29
Head	36	5	14	0	7	18	80
Fractures	118	7	22	0	13	26	186
Lacerations Etc	35	2	7	0	8	5	57
Exhaustion	8	2	0	0	1	1	12
Hypothermia	26	4	2	0	0	17	49
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	3	0	1	0	0	0	4
Heart Attack (fatalities)	10	1	0	0	0	2	13
Illness	1	0	0	0	0	1	2

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Fellrunning and Orienteering incidents

Col. 2 The category of Fellwalking (winter) is based on the prevailing weather and ground conditions at the time, not on a calendar period.

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

Col. 5 This groups all the remaining mountain activities of Mountain Biking, Hanggliding, 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: 01/01/2002 to 31/12/2002, during which time 1073 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	Perce
1 Incidents Attended by Helicopters	59	51	23	83	42	39	10	13	320	29.8
2 Helicopters Used for Evacuation	50	22	4	67	24	13	3	10	193	18.0
3 Helicopters Used for Searching	6	23	16	10	16	18	7	3	99	9.2
4 Helicopters Used for Deployment	6	0	1	7	3	4	0	0	21	2.0
5 Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	28	18	22	6	22	3	10	0	109	10.2
6 Search Dog Finds	5	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	10	0.9
7 Incidents Attended by a Doctor	104	5	19	3	50	4	5	0	190	17.7
8 Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	152	25	9	61	58	14	8	0	327	30.5
9 Animal Rescues	15	1	1	2	5	0	0	0	24	2.2

Notes:

Row 1. The number of incidents where a helicopter (military, police or ambulance) was called to or attended the scene of an incident.

Row 2. The number of times the helicopter was used to evacuate the casualty(ies) from the scene of the incident.

Row 3. The number of occasions when the helicopter was employed to search for the missing subject(s).

Row 4. The number of times the helicopters were used to deploy personnel and/or equipment to remote locations.

Row 5. The number of incidents where MR Search Dogs was called to or attended an incident.

Row 6. The number of instances where the subject was located by a Search Dog and handler.

Row 7. The number of incidents where a doctor attended the scene of the 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 also 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.