



Mountain Rescue

England & Wales

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue
England & Wales

Incident Report 2004

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Mountain Rescue – England and Wales

Incident Report 2004

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2004	609	25	376	804
2003	597	33	391	742
2002	655	23	438	824
2001	421	18	274	518
2000	679	19	435	916

With the exception of fatalities, only small changes seem to have taken place since the last report. However, significant differences lay beneath these figures. Hill-walking has seen a 20% increase in incidents and a 33% increase in the number of people requiring assistance. Whereas, incidents involved with rock scrambling have decreased by 42%, as have the number of people assisted. Equally well hidden are the regional differences. The Lake District and N Wales both show increases of more than 20% in the number of incidents recorded, the other regions being fairly static.

By way of contrast, there has been a significant drop of 22% in accidents caused by falling and a massive increase of 85% in the incidents resulting from people being 'lost'. It is difficult to believe that people's navigation has suddenly deteriorated or that the climate is getting that bad! We may be seeing the effects of changes in leisure choices; this would make an interesting study for some undergraduates. Though there will still be regional differences, the number of calls for assistance made by mobile phones seems to have plateau-ed at 36% of mountain incidents.

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2004	311	64	78	251
2003	334	28	97	260
2002	372	56	117	293
2001	277	51	75	235
2000	320	46	86	277

The number of fatalities has been significantly inflated with the 23 deaths in the Morecombe Bay tragedy early in the year. Discounting this exceptional event, fatalities appear to have increased, especially involving low-land searches. Increasingly, the statutory emergency services are recognising Mountain Rescue personnel as an additional trained resource. This recognition has reached government level with the help of some lobbying.

I would like to thank all personnel that have submitted incident reports over the years. It is the duller side of our work, but I hope team members appreciate the importance attached to giving public bodies and the public, accurate and pertinent information about the service Mountain Rescue provides. Finally, I hope the move to full electronic reporting is adopted with the enthusiasm I know it deserves.

Ged Feeney.

Ged Feeney
MR-E&W Statistics Officer

Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004.

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.

Hillwalking 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	%
Abseiling	Incidents	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0.5
	Subjects	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0.4
Fell Running	Incidents	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	2	9	1.5
	Subjects	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	8	1.0
Hill Walking - summer	Incidents	260	25	7	60	42	13	5	29	441	72.3
	Subjects	344	36	8	98	43	17	3	51	600	74.5
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Incidents	4	0	0	4	3	1	2	0	14	2.3
	Subjects	7	0	0	9	3	6	7	0	32	4.0
Hill Walking - winter	Incidents	14	0	0	1	6	0	0	2	23	3.8
	Subjects	14	0	0	1	7	0	0	3	25	3.1
Hang Gliding	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.2
Mountain Biking	Incidents	10	7	0	0	5	2	0	1	25	4.1
	Subjects	11	6	0	0	6	2	0	0	25	3.1
Orienteering	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Parapenting	Incidents	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0.7
	Subjects	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0.4
Rescue Team Exercise	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Rock Climbing	Incidents	12	2	0	15	13	0	0	2	44	7.2
	Subjects	14	2	0	30	12	0	0	2	60	7.5
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	6	1	0	10	1	0	0	0	18	3.0
	Subjects	6	1	0	23	1	0	0	0	31	3.9
Search*	Incidents	6	3	0	6	5	1	2	1	24	3.9
	Subjects	0	5	0	2	4	0	1	1	13	1.6
Totals	Incidents	317	42	7	98	80	19	9	37	609	99.8
	Subjects	401	53	8	165	81	27	11	58	804	99.9

* 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 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004.

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.

Hillwalking 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	%
Abseiling	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fell Running	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
	Injured	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	6	0.7
	Fatal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Hill Walking - summer	Uninjured	174	19	3	68	7	8	2	32	313	38.9
	Injured	159	16	5	26	35	9	1	19	270	33.5
	Fatal	11	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	17	2.1
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Uninjured	6	0	0	8	0	6	6	0	26	3.2
	Injured	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	6	0.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking - winter	Uninjured	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	8	1.0
	Injured	11	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	16	2.0
	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	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0.6
	Injured	7	6	0	0	4	2	0	0	19	2.4
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Orienteering	Uninjured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	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	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0.4
	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	5	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	21	2.6
	Injured	8	2	0	12	12	0	0	2	36	4.5
	Fatal	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0.4
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	1	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	19	2.4
	Injured	5	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	12	1.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Search*	Uninjured	0	5	0	1	2	0	0	1	9	1.1
	Injured	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2
Totals	Uninjured	191	25	3	112	14	14	8	36	403	50.1
	Injured	196	26	5	47	64	13	3	22	376	46.7
	Fatal	14	2	0	6	3	0	0	0	25	3.1

* 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 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004.

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	%
Aircrash - civil	Incidents	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.0
	Subjects	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.2
Aircrash - military	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Cave/Mine Exploration*	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Fishing	Incidents	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1.0
	Subjects	23	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	25	10.0
Local Incident	Incidents	19	39	3	6	21	2	2	3	95	30.5
	Subjects	9	12	2	4	8	1	1	2	39	15.5
Pony Trekking	Incidents	1	4	0	1	2	2	0	0	10	3.2
	Subjects	1	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	9	3.6
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	9	2.9
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	20	39	5	14	25	26	45	1	175	56.3
	Subjects	17	36	5	14	23	23	44	1	163	64.9
Sledging	Incidents	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	1.9
	Subjects	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.2
Water Sports (all types)	Incidents	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	2.6
	Subjects	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.4
Totals	Incidents	49	97	8	21	53	30	48	5	311	100.0
	Subjects	58	55	7	20	35	26	46	4	251	100.0

* These details are also reported by BCRC, but are included here because support was provided by surface MR team(s).

Non-Mountain Casualty Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004.

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	%
Aircrash - civil	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.8
	Fatal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Aircrash - military	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Cave/Mine Exploration*	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fishing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0.8
	Fatal	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	9.2
Local Incident	Uninjured	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	8	3.2
	Injured	4	9	1	0	7	0	1	1	23	9.2
	Fatal	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	8	3.2
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.8
	Injured	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	7	2.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Road Traffic Accident	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	14	24	3	6	13	11	25	0	96	38.2
	Injured	2	7	1	3	6	9	9	0	37	14.7
	Fatal	1	5	1	5	4	3	10	1	30	12.0
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sports (all types)	Uninjured	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.8
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.8
	Fatal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.8
Totals	Uninjured	20	25	3	12	13	11	25	0	109	43.4
	Injured	11	21	2	3	17	11	11	2	78	31.1
	Fatal	27	9	2	5	5	4	10	2	64	25.5

* These details are also reported by BCRC, but are included here because support was provided by surface MR team(s).

Main Causes of Mountain Incidents

This report covers the period from 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004, during which time 609 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 Hillwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Hillwalking (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	0.5
Benighted	14	1	0	0	0	15	2.5
Cragfast	16	2	8	0	0	26	4.3
Fall or Tumble	74	3	42	0	16	135	22.2
Lightening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Lost	89	2	4	0	3	98	16.1
Medical Collapse or Illness	44	1	0	0	1	46	7.6
Overdue or Missing	32	1	1	0	10	44	7.2
Rockfall	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.2
Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	7	1	2	0	6	16	2.6
Slip, Trip or Stumble	167	14	10	0	2	193	31.7
Unable to Continue	16	0	1	0	0	17	2.8

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 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004, during which time 519 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 Hillwalking (summer)	Col. 2 Hillwalking (winter)	Col. 3 Rock Climbing	Col. 4 Snow / Ice Climbing	Col. 5 Other Activities)	Col. 6 Non - Mountain	Col. 7 Total
Lower Leg & Foot	137	8	12	0	6	12	175
Upper Leg & Knee	20	3	4	0	3	5	35
Pelvis	1	0	5	0	3	3	12
Abdomen	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Chest & Shoulder	15	2	7	0	4	8	36
Back & Neck	16	0	12	0	3	11	42
Arm & Hand	15	2	13	0	2	6	38
Head	20	2	20	0	1	8	51
Fractures	136	9	21	0	13	21	200
Lacerations etc	10	0	6	0	6	7	29
Exhaustion	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hypothermia	6	0	0	0	2	9	17
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Heart Attack (fatal)	7	0	0	0	1	1	9
Illness	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

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 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004, during which time 961 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	113	59	2	59	50	30	31	7	351	36.5
2. Helicopters Used for Evacuation	84	23	0	39	30	12	9	7	204	21.2
3. Helicopters Used for Searching	16	25	2	16	18	15	22	0	114	11.9
4. Helicopters Used for Deployment	7	1	0	3	1	0	7	0	19	2.0
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	67	20	2	18	22	10	18	0	157	16.3
6. Search Dog Finds	6	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	8	0.8
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	132	5	4	2	29	0	0	0	172	17.9
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	185	31	2	66	46	12	2	0	344	35.8
9. Animal Rescues	18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	2.0

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.