



**Mountain Rescue**

England & Wales

Charity No. 222596

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**Mountain Rescue**  
England & Wales

## **Incident Report 2005**

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## Mountain Rescue – England and Wales

### Incident Report 2005

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2005	693	39	424	800
2004	609	25	376	804
2003	597	33	391	742
2002	655	23	438	824
2001	421	18	274	518

It seems likely that when all the reports are in, the total will at least match the highest figure set in 1996. This must be a concern. Factors contributing to this increase are complex but fall into two categories. Weather extremes are continuing to cause problems especially for some hill-users, in particular the debilitating effects of heat exhaustion. Lack of experience has been highlighted as contributory to many instances; poor preparation and poor decision-making were cited on an increasing number of occasions.

Across all incidents, the use of mobile phones has again increased, this time to over 40%. A small proportion of these calls were avoidable with better preparation, but the majority were warranted and have saved lives. In addition, with the co-operation of the caller, many parties were given sufficient instruction to make the work of the MR teams that much easier. The increase in fatalities seems to be linked to a rise in accidents rather than medical conditions, again pointing to possible lack of care or inexperience on difficult ground.

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2005	264	34	90	211
2004	311	64	78	251
2003	334	28	97	260
2002	372	56	117	293
2001	277	51	75	235

The range of incidents attended by MR continues to broaden. Some of these incidents have stretched the resources of our voluntary service. There must be questions about sustainability of voluntary organisations like us to continue contributing in these incidents given the increasing instances of core incidents as cited above. In spite of this, the statutory authorities continue to rely on MRT contribution in non-mountain events.

Finally, the move to electronic reporting continues; 67% of incidents were reported electronically in 2005. We must move to 100% in 2006 to aid consistency of reporting and speeding up our response to demands for information; information that is increasingly being requested by outside agencies with whom we deal and may rely on for future funding.

*Ged Feeney.*

Ged Feeney  
MR-E&W Statistics Officer

## Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.

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	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.4
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0.5
Fell Running	Incidents	4	5	1	1	5	0	0	4	20	2.9
	Subjects	4	4	1	2	6	0	0	4	21	2.6
Hill Walking - summer	Incidents	272	22	14	79	45	29	6	23	490	70.7
	Subjects	299	19	12	102	50	46	6	29	563	70.4
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Incidents	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	1	9	1.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	6	10	0	1	18	2.3
Hill Walking - winter	Incidents	19	0	1	5	8	1	0	0	34	4.9
	Subjects	22	0	1	8	12	2	0	0	45	5.6
Hang Gliding	Incidents	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.3
Mountain Biking	Incidents	7	5	2	1	7	1	0	3	26	3.8
	Subjects	6	5	0	1	6	1	0	3	22	2.8
Orienteering	Incidents	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Subjects	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Parapenting	Incidents	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	7	1.0
	Subjects	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	6	0.8
Rock Climbing	Incidents	9	3	1	14	16	2	1	0	46	6.6
	Subjects	12	3	1	17	17	2	1	0	53	6.6
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	4	0	0	29	1	0	0	1	35	5.1
	Subjects	4	0	0	46	1	0	0	1	52	6.5
Search*	Incidents	3	0	2	3	6	4	0	0	18	2.6
	Subjects	2	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	10	1.3
Snow / Ice Climbing	Incidents	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Totals	Incidents	325	35	23	135	93	42	7	33	693	100.0
	Subjects	355	31	18	182	103	65	7	39	800	100.0

\* 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 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Injured	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fell Running	Uninjured	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.5
	Injured	3	3	1	0	6	0	0	4	17	2.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking - summer	Uninjured	127	3	3	50	19	21	4	12	239	29.9
	Injured	156	13	8	50	25	24	2	15	293	36.6
	Fatal	16	3	1	2	6	1	0	2	31	3.9
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	5	6	0	0	11	1.4
	Injured	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	7	0.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking - winter	Uninjured	6	0	0	7	7	2	0	0	22	2.8
	Injured	15	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	22	2.8
	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	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
	Injured	6	5	0	1	5	1	0	2	20	2.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
Orienteering	Uninjured	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	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
Parapenting	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	0.6
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	6	1	0	9	0	0	1	0	17	2.1
	Injured	4	2	1	8	17	2	0	0	34	4.3
	Fatal	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	1	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	35	4.4
	Injured	3	0	0	10	1	0	0	1	15	1.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Search*	Uninjured	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	5	0.6
	Injured	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	0.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
Snow / Ice Climbing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	143	5	5	105	31	30	5	13	337	42.1
	Injured	192	23	12	73	64	34	2	24	424	53.0
	Fatal	20	3	1	4	8	1	0	2	39	4.9

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

## Non-Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.

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	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	1.1
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	6	2.8
Fishing	Incidents	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.1
	Subjects	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.9
Local Incident	Incidents	26	32	11	4	13	8	0	0	94	35.6
	Subjects	16	15	6	1	6	7	0	0	51	24.2
Pony Trekking	Incidents	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	2.3
	Subjects	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	2.4
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	1.5
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.9
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	8	34	20	10	20	26	26	2	146	55.3
	Subjects	6	33	17	9	19	24	27	2	137	64.9
Sledging	Incidents	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.8
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.9
Water Sports (all types)	Incidents	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	6	2.3
	Subjects	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	6	2.8
Totals	Incidents	38	72	33	14	38	39	27	3	264	100.0
	Subjects	26	50	24	10	30	36	31	4	211	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 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005.

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	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	1.9
Fishing	Uninjured	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Local Incident	Uninjured	7	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	13	6.2
	Injured	9	12	1	1	5	5	0	0	33	15.6
	Fatal	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	2.4
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	2.4
	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	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	2	16	11	6	6	10	18	1	70	33.2
	Injured	1	13	5	2	9	10	3	0	43	20.4
	Fatal	3	4	1	1	4	4	6	1	24	11.4
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sports (all types)	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1.4
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.5
Totals	Uninjured	10	16	16	6	6	12	18	3	87	41.2
	Injured	13	27	6	3	18	20	3	0	90	42.7
	Fatal	3	7	2	1	6	4	10	1	34	16.1

\* 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 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005, during which time 695 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	0.4
Benighted	10	1	2	0	0	13	1.9
Cragfast	7	6	22	0	0	35	5.0
Fall or Tumble	95	4	49	2	15	165	23.7
Lightening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Lost	76	4	4	0	3	87	12.5
Medical Collapse or Illness	56	1	0	0	2	59	8.5
Overdue or Missing	49	1	0	0	8	58	8.3
Rockfall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	13	1	0	0	2	16	2.3
Slip, Trip or Stumble	166	17	12	0	1	196	28.2
Unable to Continue	17	1	4	0	0	22	3.2

Notes:

Col. 1 This category also includes Hill 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 e.g. Mountain Biking, Hang Gliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing, Mountain Searches, etc.

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

## Main Sites & Types of Injury

This report covers the period from 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005, during which time 548 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	116	11	16	1	7	13	164
Upper Leg & Knee	30	1	8	0	3	2	44
Pelvis	3	0	2	0	4	0	9
Abdomen	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Chest & Shoulder	22	2	5	0	6	9	44
Back & Neck	22	0	12	1	5	7	47
Arm & Hand	11	1	5	0	6	5	28
Head	28	2	11	1	4	12	58
Fractures	117	15	26	1	19	20	198
Lacerations etc	20	2	6	0	2	8	38
Exhaustion	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Hypothermia	14	4	0	0	0	8	26
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	5	0	0	0	0	1	6
Heart Attack (fatal)	8	0	0	0	1	1	10
Illness	2	0	0	0	0	1	3

**Notes:**

Col. 1 This category also includes Hill 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 e.g. Mountain Biking, Hang Gliding, Parapenting, Ski-ing, Mountain Searches, etc.

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 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005, during which time 1016 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	83	31	12	75	52	42	12	8	315	31.0
2. Helicopters Used for Evacuation	68	10	8	50	29	22	0	6	193	19.0
3. Helicopters Used for Searching	11	13	3	17	16	21	12	2	95	9.4
4. Helicopters Used for Deployment	7	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	15	1.5
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	46	17	3	9	12	29	11	0	127	12.5
6. Search Dog Finds	5	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	10	1.0
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	98	0	17	2	35	2	0	0	154	15.2
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	189	20	12	91	60	26	9	0	407	40.1
9. Animal Rescues	25	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	28	2.8

### 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, or their recovery.

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.