



Mountain Rescue

(England and Wales)

Charity No. 222596

Mountain Rescue
(England and Wales)

Incident Report 2007

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All enquiries please direct to: -

Ged Feeney
MR-E&W Statistics Officer
57 Castlesteads Drive
CARLISLE
Cumbria
CA2 7XD
Tel: +44 (0)1228 525709
Email: ged@gfeeney.demon.co.uk

Copies of this report are available from the MR(E&W) website – www.mountain.rescue.org.uk

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Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

Incident Report 2007

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2007	782	33	499	1121
2006	748	32	453	1013
2005	693	39	424	800
2004	609	25	376	804
2003	597	33	391	742

The continued annual increase in activity should not be received with any satisfaction. The message contained in previous and similar reports are not being heeded by users of the outdoors. Locally, initiatives have been taken to highlight elementary precautions and practices that could reduce accidents. These campaigns have been responding to local dramatic increases, but a greater audience has to be accessed before the 'Health and Safety' brigade invade the outdoors.

Falls and slips have always featured prominently in these reports; again, these causes cannot be taken as inevitable. Very few accidents can be attributed to poor footwear; however, reduced concentration and tiredness at the end of a mountain day seem to recur time and time again. Walking in the mountains, often on uneven and loose tracks, require good route-choice and conscious attention to foot placement. Both these points are basic mountaineering skills that can be learned and practiced; equally, both are improved with higher levels of fitness.

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2007	396	37	100	303
2006	344	38	102	263
2005	264	34	90	211
2004	311	64	78	251
2003	334	28	97	260

Significantly, 1 in 3 incidents attended was a non-mountain incident; clearly there are regional variations but this still represents an enormous contribution to 'normal' life. Mountain Rescue teams have often been seen as dealing with 'fools who go onto the hills'; MR members bring their skills and training to the aid of 'ordinary folk' in urban and rural settings. They work closely with Police, Fire, Ambulance and Coastguard services tasked with protecting the public, particularly the vulnerable.

The current report contains only those incidents where teams have been tasked; in future, I hope to include those times when teams have been contacted as an early 'heads-up' or for advice. Whilst less people are involved, it represents another vital aspect of the voluntary service provided to the statutory authorities. Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank teams for their efforts in reporting incidents – your work is valued and valuable in getting the above messages across to those that matter.

Ged Feeney.

Ged Feeney
MR-E&W Statistics Officer

Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007.

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	%
Fell Running	Incidents	6	3	0	3	8	0	1	3	24	3.1
	Subjects	6	2	0	4	10	0	3	5	30	2.7
Hill Walking - summer	Incidents	298	19	23	88	54	25	14	35	556	71.1
	Subjects	442	20	40	161	60	28	16	50	817	72.9
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Incidents	6	0	0	3	4	2	2	1	18	2.3
	Subjects	18	0	0	3	32	2	9	1	65	5.8
Hill Walking - winter	Incidents	6	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	12	1.5
	Subjects	7	0	0	2	5	0	0	1	15	1.3
Hang Gliding	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.3
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.2
Mountain Biking	Incidents	16	10	6	3	7	3	0	1	46	5.9
	Subjects	16	9	5	4	7	3	0	1	45	4.0
Orienteering	Incidents	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0.4
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0.3
Parapenting	Incidents	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	5	0.6
	Subjects	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	4	0.4
Rescue Team Exercise	Incidents	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.2
Rock Climbing	Incidents	11	3	1	8	21	0	0	0	44	5.6
	Subjects	10	3	1	9	22	0	0	0	45	4.0
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	12	0	0	23	1	0	0	1	37	4.7
	Subjects	14	0	0	55	1	0	0	1	71	6.3
Search*	Incidents	11	5	1	9	2	2	1	2	33	4.2
	Subjects	9	4	1	4	1	1	0	2	22	2.0
Totals	Incidents	367	42	31	141	104	32	18	47	782	100.0
	Subjects	523	40	47	243	142	34	28	64	1121	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 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007.

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	%
Fell Running	Uninjured	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	7	0.6
	Injured	5	2	0	2	7	0	1	5	22	2.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Hill Walking - summer	Uninjured	255	5	32	98	17	12	9	25	453	40.4
	Injured	174	13	5	62	39	15	6	25	339	30.2
	Fatal	13	2	3	1	4	1	1	0	25	2.2
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Uninjured	10	0	0	0	17	0	9	0	36	3.2
	Injured	8	0	0	3	15	2	0	1	29	2.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking - winter	Uninjured	3	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	8	0.7
	Injured	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	7	0.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hang Gliding	Uninjured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	1	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	7	0.6
	Injured	15	9	5	2	5	1	0	1	38	3.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Orienteering	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0.3
	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	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	4	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	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	0.5
	Injured	6	3	1	7	22	0	0	0	39	3.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	6	0	0	46	1	0	0	1	54	4.8
	Injured	7	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	13	1.2
	Fatal	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	0.4
Search*	Uninjured	8	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	17	1.5
	Injured	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Fatal	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0.3
Totals	Uninjured	288	9	32	154	43	15	20	28	589	52.5
	Injured	220	29	11	84	94	18	7	36	499	44.5
	Fatal	15	2	4	5	5	1	1	0	33	2.9

* 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 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007.

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Subjects	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.3
Fishing	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	1.0
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.7
Local Incident	Incidents	19	59	18	1	31	7	1	1	137	34.6
	Subjects	10	17	9	1	17	6	1	0	61	20.1
Pony Trekking	Incidents	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	1.5
	Subjects	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	1.7
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	0	5	1	0	5	0	1	1	13	3.3
	Subjects	0	4	1	0	5	0	0	1	11	3.6
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	7	37	53	32	20	27	44	2	222	56.1
	Subjects	5	26	43	30	20	27	49	2	202	66.7
Sledging	Incidents	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	1.0
	Subjects	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	7	2.3
Water Sports (all types)	Incidents	5	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	9	2.3
	Subjects	5	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	11	3.6
Totals	Incidents	33	105	72	36	60	36	49	5	396	100.0
	Subjects	25	50	53	39	47	34	51	4	303	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 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007.

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	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.3
Fishing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.3
Local Incident	Uninjured	1	1	3	0	4	3	1	0	13	4.3
	Injured	9	14	5	1	10	3	0	0	42	13.9
	Fatal	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	6	2.0
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	1.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Road Traffic Accident	Uninjured	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.7
	Injured	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	8	2.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	2	13	37	22	7	15	43	1	140	46.2
	Injured	2	8	6	3	7	7	5	1	39	12.9
	Fatal	1	5	0	5	6	5	1	0	23	7.6
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	1.3
	Injured	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sports (all types)	Uninjured	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	7	2.3
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.7
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.7
Totals	Uninjured	6	14	41	30	11	18	44	2	166	54.8
	Injured	13	29	11	4	26	10	5	2	100	33.0
	Fatal	6	7	1	5	10	6	2	0	37	12.2

* 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 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007, during which time 784 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	1	0	3	0	0	4	0.5
Benighted	30	1	1	0	1	33	4.2
Cragfast	20	2	18	0	0	40	5.1
Fall or Tumble	108	4	38	0	32	182	23.2
Lightening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Lost	98	1	4	0	3	106	13.5
Medical Collapse or Illness	58	0	2	0	1	61	7.8
Overdue or Missing	40	0	1	0	18	59	7.5
Rockfall	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.3
Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	19	0	0	0	10	29	3.7
Slip, Trip or Stumble	183	6	8	0	2	199	25.4
Unable to Continue	26	0	3	0	0	29	3.7

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 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007, during which time 651 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	152	2	17	0	8	14	193
Upper Leg & Knee	39	0	5	0	12	9	65
Pelvis	6	0	5	0	5	2	18
Abdomen	1	0	3	0	1	1	6
Chest & Shoulder	16	0	10	0	10	7	43
Back & Neck	11	0	12	0	5	15	43
Arm & Hand	12	1	8	0	3	11	35
Head	41	0	12	0	6	12	71
Fractures	130	4	19	0	17	20	190
Lacerations etc	16	0	7	0	10	6	39
Exhaustion	13	0	0	0	0	1	14
Hypothermia	33	0	1	0	0	6	40
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Heart Attack (fatal)	11	0	0	0	0	2	13
Illness	2	0	0	0	0	0	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. 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 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007, during which time 1239 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	94	23	29	79	55	24	20	15	339	27.4
2. Helicopters Used for Evacuation	76	9	10	48	34	10	2	9	198	16.0
3. Helicopters Used for Searching	14	11	17	30	11	14	18	4	119	9.6
4. Helicopters Used for Deployment	13	1	1	8	1	0	0	0	24	1.9
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	58	9	14	24	16	41	8	0	170	13.7
6. Search Dog Finds	4	0	1	2	2	2	1	0	12	1.0
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	67	9	11	5	62	0	4	0	158	12.8
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	253	11	14	111	55	30	9	0	483	39.0
9. Animal Rescues	24	1	2	5	5	0	0	0	37	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, 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.