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MOUNTAIN RESCUE (ENGLAND & WALES)

PATRON – HRH PRINCE WILLIAM OF WALES

Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

Incident Report 2009

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Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

Incident Report 2009

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2009	1054	37	667	1457
2008	880	48	557	1193
2007	782	33	499	1121
2006	748	32	453	1013
2005	693	39	424	800
2004	609	25	376	804

From the evidence above, there seems no 'let-up' in the annual increase in incident figures. Incidents have increased 21% nationally, but this statistic masks considerable variation across the regions. The Yorkshire Dales increased by 107%, North Wales by 67%, the Peak District by 49%, leaving the Lake District with 12% increase and the other regions showing a decrease. No single activity is responsible for these increases as the distribution of incidents across activities follows similar patterns for previous years. Could this be a consequence of the recession and the advent of the 'stay-cation'?

Looking at the causes of these incidents, things have changed little over the past 3 or 4 years. Falls and slips contributed the largest proportion at almost 48%; how many of these resulted from tiredness or poor appreciation of the terrain cannot be answered from these figures. The next major figure is lost or reported overdue; at nearly 21%, most of these calls for help are avoidable. Proper use of map and compass could reduce this figure overnight; both items are readily available and cheap, but they are useless without the knowledge and experience to use them.

This year's non-mountain incidents in England and Wales are summarised as follows:

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2009	531	54	147	374
2008	407	56	102	325
2007	396	37	100	303
2006	344	38	102	263
2005	264	34	90	211
2004	311	64	78	251

Once again this year, the incidents have demonstrated that the skills and equipment possessed by mountain rescue teams are invaluable in the non-mountain environment. On a national note, the flooding in Cumbria and South Wales made the headlines; great media coverage provided graphic evidence of this valuable service. But we should not forget the contribution made to non-mountain search efforts, most of which goes unrecognised in the media but it provides vital support to police and local communities.

Finally, teams were contacted by statutory services that did not result in a deployment of personnel; for the last three years these have totalled 126 (2007), 148 (2008) and 225 (2009). And all of this is provided at no cost to its users, very little government funding by teams who pay taxes on practically all their purchases.

Ged Feeney
MR(E&W) Statistics Officer

Mountain Incident Report

This report covers the period from 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009.

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	9	0	3	7	4	0	1	3	27	2.6
	Subjects	11	0	7	12	4	0	1	3	38	2.6
Hill Walking - summer	Incidents	319	20	14	133	95	37	6	56	680	64.5
	Subjects	446	14	15	197	119	41	6	112	950	65.1
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Incidents	7	0	2	5	5	1	1	0	21	2.0
	Subjects	20	0	13	6	8	4	1	0	52	3.6
Hill Walking - winter	Incidents	47	1	3	24	4	1	0	6	86	8.2
	Subjects	83	1	4	41	5	3	0	6	143	9.8
Hang Gliding	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0.3
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0.2
Mountain Biking	Incidents	11	7	12	2	14	2	0	6	54	5.1
	Subjects	10	4	8	2	10	1	0	5	40	2.7
Parapenting	Incidents	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0.5
	Subjects	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0.3
Rescue Team Exercise	Incidents	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0.4
	Subjects	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0.3
Rock Climbing	Incidents	14	1	3	25	23	0	0	5	71	6.7
	Subjects	19	1	3	39	24	0	0	5	91	6.2
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	16	0	0	41	2	1	0	0	60	5.7
	Subjects	20	0	0	77	2	1	0	0	100	6.9
Search*	Incidents	6	1	0	10	6	3	5	4	35	3.3
	Subjects	0	1	0	3	7	2	5	1	19	1.3
Snow / Ice Climbing	Incidents	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	8	0.8
	Subjects	4	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	12	0.8
Totals	Incidents	438	32	37	252	155	46	13	81	1054	99.9
	Subjects	619	22	50	385	182	53	13	133	1457	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 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009.

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	0	0	0	0	2	0.1
	Injured	10	0	7	10	4	0	1	3	35	2.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Hill Walking - summer	Uninjured	231	1	8	106	52	18	5	77	498	34.1
	Injured	204	13	7	86	64	22	1	34	431	29.5
	Fatal	11	0	0	5	3	1	0	1	21	1.4
Hill Walking - summer (DoE)	Uninjured	15	0	12	1	4	4	0	0	36	2.5
	Injured	5	0	1	5	4	0	1	0	16	1.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking - winter	Uninjured	49	0	3	28	3	3	0	0	86	5.9
	Injured	32	1	1	9	2	0	0	6	51	3.5
	Fatal	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	6	0.4
Hang Gliding	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.1
	Injured	9	4	8	2	9	1	0	5	38	2.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Parapenting	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Injured	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0.3
	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	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing	Uninjured	9	0	1	21	4	0	0	0	35	2.4
	Injured	10	1	2	17	19	0	0	5	54	3.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.1
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	10	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	73	5.0
	Injured	9	0	0	12	1	1	0	0	23	1.6
	Fatal	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4	0.3
Search*	Uninjured	0	1	0	3	4	0	5	1	14	1.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0.2
Snow / Ice Climbing	Uninjured	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	6	0.4
	Injured	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	6	0.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	318	2	24	227	69	25	10	78	753	51.6
	Injured	287	20	26	145	106	26	3	54	667	45.7
	Fatal	14	0	0	13	7	2	0	1	37	2.5

* 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 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009.

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 - military	Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.2
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	1.1
Fishing	Incidents	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.4
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3
Local Incident	Incidents	64	55	20	8	67	14	1	5	234	44.1
	Subjects	16	21	11	5	32	12	1	1	99	26.5
Pony Trekking	Incidents	3	0	2	0	3	4	0	0	12	2.3
	Subjects	2	0	2	0	3	4	0	0	11	2.9
Road Traffic Accident	Incidents	3	3	1	3	3	0	1	1	15	2.8
	Subjects	2	0	0	3	2	0	2	1	10	2.7
Non-Mountain Search	Incidents	15	38	43	31	23	47	37	2	236	44.4
	Subjects	13	22	44	30	24	43	35	1	212	56.7
Sledging	Incidents	3	1	0	0	8	0	0	1	13	2.4
	Subjects	3	1	0	0	7	0	0	2	13	3.5
Water Sports (all types)	Incidents	11	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	18	3.4
	Subjects	11	1	0	5	0	1	0	6	24	6.4
Totals	Incidents	100	98	66	43	106	67	39	12	531	100.0
	Subjects	47	45	57	43	69	64	38	11	374	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 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009.

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 - military	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	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	1.1
Fishing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Local Incident	Uninjured	2	9	4	0	2	4	0	0	21	5.6
	Injured	10	11	4	3	28	6	0	1	63	16.8
	Fatal	4	1	3	2	2	2	1	0	15	4.0
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Injured	1	0	2	0	3	4	0	0	10	2.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Road Traffic Accident	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0.5
	Injured	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	8	2.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Non-Mountain Search	Uninjured	7	16	26	18	15	23	30	1	136	36.4
	Injured	5	1	14	6	3	13	4	0	46	12.3
	Fatal	1	5	4	6	6	7	1	0	30	8.0
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3
	Injured	3	1	0	0	6	0	0	2	12	3.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sports (all types)	Uninjured	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	12	3.2
	Injured	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	7	1.9
	Fatal	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1.3
Totals	Uninjured	16	25	30	22	18	27	32	3	173	46.3
	Injured	22	14	20	13	43	24	4	7	147	39.3
	Fatal	9	6	7	8	8	13	2	1	54	14.4

* 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 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009, during which time 1057 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	4	0	5	1	0	10	0.9
Benighted	34	4	6	1	0	45	4.3
Cragfast	20	8	34	0	0	62	5.9
Fall or Tumble	122	20	58	4	35	239	22.6
Lightening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Lost	128	20	4	1	2	155	14.7
Medical Collapse or Illness	60	2	3	0	0	65	6.1
Overdue or Missing	45	6	2	0	11	64	6.1
Rockfall	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1
Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	18	4	4	0	10	36	3.4
Slip, Trip or Stumble	215	32	14	2	3	266	25.2
Unable to Continue	30	2	2	1	0	35	3.3

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

Main Sites & Types of Injury

This report covers the period from 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009, during which time 890 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	172	18	21	2	7	22	242
Upper Leg & Knee	50	4	8	2	6	5	75
Pelvis	9	1	9	0	4	11	34
Abdomen	2	1	7	0	1	2	13
Chest & Shoulder	28	8	9	2	11	12	70
Back & Neck	26	1	14	0	5	18	64
Arm & Hand	25	3	9	2	7	6	52
Head	45	4	10	1	8	13	81
Fractures	161	21	22	3	16	31	254
Lacerations etc	25	2	5	1	5	3	41
Exhaustion	15	1	1	0	0	1	18
Hypothermia	25	11	0	0	2	8	46
Heart Attack (non-fatal)	12	1	1	0	0	0	14
Heart Attack (fatal)	14	0	1	0	0	3	18
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 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009, during which time 1638 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	139	30	25	94	87	35	14	25	449	27.4
2. Helicopters Used for Evacuation	105	11	14	76	54	20	5	13	298	18.2
3. Helicopters Used for Searching	14	18	8	15	12	18	10	1	96	5.9
4. Helicopters Used for Deployment	17	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	24	1.5
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	76	21	9	41	18	56	4	0	225	13.7
6. Search Dog Finds	16	0	0	1	2	10	1	0	30	1.8
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	106	14	20	5	52	2	1	0	200	12.2
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	364	11	12	215	139	44	2	0	787	48.0
9. Animal Rescues	20	0	1	5	8	2	1	0	37	2.3

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.