



# MOUNTAIN RESCUE (ENGLAND & WALES)

PATRON – HRH PRINCE WILLIAM OF WALES

## Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

# Incident Report 2010

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Copies of this report can be obtained from the Mountain Rescue (England and Wales) website –  
<http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/media-centre/statistics>

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## Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

### Incident Report 2010

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2010	1126	53	658	1394
2009	1054	37	667	1457
2008	880	48	557	1193
2007	782	33	499	1121
2006	748	32	453	1013

The increase in incident figures continues to rise, albeit not as dramatically as in previous two years. The regional differences are not as stark as last year, but the doubling in incident figures for Mid-Pennine should be noted. Given the severe wintry weather, hill walking in winter conditions has predictably increased; likewise, snow and ice climbing incidents show similar increases. Whilst this may draw attention from the media, it is better understood when considering the lack of opportunity to train and improve skills in such conditions over previous years.

Given this last statement and commenting on causes of incidents, it should not be overlooked that avalanches can and do occur in English and Welsh mountains. Hill users must gain the knowledge to recognise avalanche conditions and actively avoid endangering themselves in venturing into suspect areas. Simple research on avalanche conditions is quickly repaid. Contrast this with instances of lightning strikes. The effects can be just as terrible, but their predictability is far less than avalanche. Yet after years with no incidents of lightning, there were three reported this year, all on the same day. Like avalanches, lightning is rare, the consequences can be life-changing but can the level of risk be mitigated by training and experience?

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2010	725	44	118	336
2009	531	54	147	374
2008	407	56	102	325
2007	396	37	100	303
2006	344	38	102	263

Over the last five years, what are termed 'Local Incidents' have increased three-fold; but looking further back, only 5 such incidents were reported in 2001, but this rises to 363 in 2010. These incidents should also be described as 'Resilience'; as such it represents a considerable contribution to maintaining communities. Taken together with mountain rescue's contribution to non-mountain searching, the statutory emergency services and society in general gets a valuable service at minimal or no cost. Therefore possible government moves to offset mountain rescue's tax burden by means of an annual grant seems equally minimal and long-overdue.

Ged Feeney  
Statistics Officer MR(E&W)

## Summary Report | Mountain Incidents (pg2)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010.

The report confines itself to those activities that are mountain or wilderness-related to which Mountain Rescue Teams were deployed. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note the percentage totals may not sum to 100% because of the effect of this rounding in the rows.

Hillwalking is a general category covering all instances of recreational walking, away from easy road or track access. The categories referring to

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	Peninsula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Abseiling	Incidents	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.1
Mountain Biking	Incidents	10	15	3	4	13	1	0	6	2	54	4.8
	Subjects	9	7	7	4	13	1	0	6	2	49	3.5
Cave/Mine Exploration	Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
Hang-gliding	Incidents	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0.3
	Subjects	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.1
Hill Walking (D of E)	Incidents	11	0	2	13	4	2	0	6	0	38	3.4
	Subjects	23	0	2	36	9	12	0	13	0	95	6.8
Hill Walking	Incidents	323	29	21	101	98	10	2	30	40	654	58.1
	Subjects	405	24	14	118	109	14	0	41	48	773	55.5
Hill Walking (Winter)	Incidents	64	3	3	23	9	0	0	14	6	122	10.8
	Subjects	108	5	3	36	11	0	0	19	10	192	13.8
Fell Running	Incidents	8	2	0	4	8	0	0	0	2	24	2.1
	Subjects	7	2	0	3	8	0	0	0	2	22	1.6
Orienteering	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.2
	Subjects	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.3
Parapenting	Incidents	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	0.6
	Subjects	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	0.5
Rock Climbing - roped	Incidents	12	7	2	15	29	0	0	1	3	69	6.1
	Subjects	11	5	2	17	30	0	0	0	3	68	4.9
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	13	0	0	42	1	0	0	1	0	57	5.1
	Subjects	28	0	0	70	1	0	0	1	0	100	7.2
Rescue Team Activity	Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.2
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.1
Search - Mountain	Incidents	14	5	1	17	8	3	1	8	4	61	5.4
	Subjects	4	6	1	2	7	3	1	4	3	31	2.2
Snow/Ice Climbing - roped	Incidents	20	1	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	28	2.5
	Subjects	34	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	43	3.1
Ski-ing	Incidents	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0.2
Totals	Incidents	480	66	32	227	174	16	3	70	58	1126	100.0
	Subjects	637	53	29	295	193	30	1	87	69	1394	100.0

Note:

The category Search includes those activities not covered by the rest, where the subject(s) either strayed, became lost or whose whereabouts were otherwise unknown. It also covers those incident where no subjects were associated.

The category Cave/Mine Exploration shows incidents that are also reported by BCRC, but are included here because support was provided by surface MR team(s).

## Summary Report | Mountain Incident Subjects (pg3)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010.

The report confines itself to those activities that are mountain or wilderness-related to which Mountain Rescue Teams deployed. It lists the number of incidents and persons assisted, regardless of degree of injury. The percentages are rounded to 1 dec. place. Please note the percentage totals may not sum to 100% because of the effect of this rounding in the rows.

Hillwalking is a general category covering all instances of recreational walking, away from easy road or track access. The categories referring to winter reflect the prevailing weather conditions reported at the time of the incident rather than any calendar period.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	Peninsula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Abseiling	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0.4
	Injured	8	7	7	3	10	1	0	6	2	44	6.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3.8
Cave/Mine Exploration	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hang-gliding	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking (D of E)	Uninjured	16	0	0	30	7	12	0	10	0	75	11.1
	Injured	7	0	2	6	2	0	0	3	0	20	3.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking	Uninjured	182	4	6	50	48	11	0	26	19	346	51.0
	Injured	208	17	8	62	58	3	0	14	26	396	60.2
	Fatal	14	3	0	6	3	0	0	1	3	30	56.6
Hill Walking (Winter)	Uninjured	68	3	0	26	5	0	0	12	6	120	17.7
	Injured	36	2	3	9	6	0	0	7	4	67	10.2
	Fatal	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	9.4
Fell Running	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Injured	7	2	0	3	6	0	0	0	2	20	3.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Orienteering	Uninjured	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.6
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Parapenting	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	1.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing - roped	Uninjured	3	1	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	15	2.2
	Injured	8	4	2	8	27	0	0	0	2	51	7.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	3.8
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	17	0	0	52	1	0	0	0	0	70	10.3
	Injured	10	0	0	16	0	0	0	1	0	27	4.1
	Fatal	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	5.7
Rescue Team Activity	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
	Injured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Search - Mountain	Uninjured	2	4	0	1	1	3	1	3	1	16	2.4
	Injured	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	9	17.0
Snow/Ice Climbing - roped	Uninjured	20	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	23	3.4
	Injured	12	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	18	2.7
	Fatal	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.8
Ski-ing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	313	12	6	170	71	26	1	52	27	678	100.0
	Injured	300	36	23	114	112	4	0	33	36	658	100.0
	Fatal	23	5	0	11	6	0	0	2	6	53	100.0

Note:

The category Search includes those activities not covered by the rest, where the subject(s) either strayed, became lost or whose whereabouts were otherwise unknown. It also covers those incident where no subjects were associated.

## Summary Report | Non-Mountain Incidents (pg4)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010.

The report confines itself to those incidents not directly related to mountain or wilderness-related 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 the totals may not sum to 100% because of the effect of this rounding in the rows.

The search category covers mainly urban, coastline and lowland areas with good road access. Local incidents reflect assistance given to local

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	Peninsula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Aircrash - civil	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.3
Animal Rescue	Incidents	15	0	2	5	1	1	3	3	5	35	4.8
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fishing	Incidents	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.6
Local Incident	Incidents	73	112	43	22	97	7	1	18	8	381	52.6
	Subjects	14	23	5	7	25	1	0	9	4	88	26.2
Motor Sport	Incidents	3	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	9	1.2
	Subjects	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	1.5
Occupational	Incidents	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	7	1.0
	Subjects	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	1.2
Pony Trekking	Incidents	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	8	1.1
	Subjects	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	1.8
Road Traffic Collision	Incidents	2	0	0	2	4	1	0	1	0	10	1.4
	Subjects	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0.9
Search - Non-mountain	Incidents	14	40	37	33	21	30	24	28	10	237	32.7
	Subjects	12	30	27	29	18	26	21	29	9	201	59.8
Sledging	Incidents	1	7	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	19	2.6
	Subjects	1	7	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	15	4.5
Water Sport (all types)	Incidents	5	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	1	13	1.8
	Subjects	4	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	11	3.3
Major Incident	Incidents	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Incidents	120	164	90	65	140	39	29	53	25	725	100.0
	Subjects	39	62	36	39	56	27	22	41	14	336	100.0

## Summary Report | Non-Mountain Incident Subjects (pg5)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010.

This 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 the totals may not sum to 100% because of the effect of this rounding 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 the statutory emergency services during severe weather, problems with access or major incidents.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	Peninsula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Aircrash - civil	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.7
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fishing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fatal	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.5
Local Incident	Uninjured	4	5	2	0	2	1	0	4	0	18	11.8
	Injured	8	18	3	5	20	0	0	3	2	59	50.0
	Fatal	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	2	10	22.7
Motor Sport	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	4.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Occupational	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2.3
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	5.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Road Traffic Collision	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.7
	Injured	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Search - Non-mountain	Uninjured	7	16	19	21	7	23	17	14	8	132	86.3
	Injured	1	6	2	1	7	2	1	2	0	22	18.6
	Fatal	2	6	5	2	1	0	2	8	1	27	61.4
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	7	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	15	12.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sport (all types)	Uninjured	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.7
	Injured	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	6	5.1
	Fatal	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	9.1
Totals	Uninjured	11	21	21	22	10	24	17	19	8	153	100.0
	Injured	19	33	8	8	37	2	2	7	2	118	100.0
	Fatal	7	6	6	4	6	0	2	9	4	44	100.0

## Summary Reports | Main Causes of Mountain Incidents (pg6)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010, during which time 1126 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 Cause Total	Col. 7 Percent of all Incidents
1. Avalanche	0	0	0	4	2	6	0.5
2. Belay / Runner Failure	4	0	5	0	0	9	0.8
3. Benighted	25	10	2	1	1	39	3.5
4. Cragfast	24	4	28	6	0	62	5.5
5. Fall or Tumble	131	20	66	12	33	262	23.3
6. Lightning	3	0	0	0	0	3	0.3
7. Lost or Overdue	113	24	7	0	8	152	13.5
8. Medical Collapse or Illness	69	4	1	0	2	76	6.7
9. Overdue or Missing	62	8	1	0	27	98	8.7
10. Rockfall	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1
11. Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	16	5	2	1	20	44	3.9
12. Slip. Trip or Stumble	188	46	22	5	1	262	23.3
13. Unable to Continue	22	8	1	0	0	31	2.8
14. Totals Incidents	718	122	128	28	130	1126	100.0

## 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 category includes 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 the percentage of all Mountain Incidents reported.



## Summary Report | Main Sites and Types of Injury (pg7)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010, during which time 867 persons (injured or ill) had a defined condition reported. This report summarises the main sites and types of injuries dealt with by MR Teams. It is based on a search of keywords used in incident reports.

Site / Condition	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
1. Lower Leg & Foot	153	26	20	3	9	24	235
2. Upper Leg & Knee	54	5	3	3	4	6	75
3. Pelvis	8	2	9	0	3	10	32
4. Abdomen	1	0	2	0	0	2	5
5. Chest & Shoulder	31	6	12	4	10	5	68
6. Back & Neck	22	5	17	2	6	13	65
7. Arm & Hand	25	5	9	2	5	6	52
8. Head	51	6	20	4	10	8	99
9. Fractures	176	25	29	10	21	28	289
10. Lacerations etc.	22	2	10	0	4	3	41
11. Exhaustion	10	1	0	0	0	0	11
12. Hypothermia	14	6	1	1	1	6	29
13. Heart Attack (non-fatal)	12	0	0	0	1	2	15
14. Heart Attack (fatal)	17	1	2	0	1	2	23
15. Illness	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
16. Total	463	72	84	20	67	161	867

## 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 category includes 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.

## Summary Reports | Specialist Resources and Other Details (pg8)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2010 and 31/12/2010, during which time 2117 incidents (Deployments and Alert/Standbys) 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 for each row. The percentage calculations (rounded to 1 dec. place) are based on the total number incidents where MR teams were deployed.

Category	Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	Peninsula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
1. Incidents Attended by Helicopter	187	42	18	131	82	11	9	34	30	544	29.4
2. Helicopter Used for Evacuation	135	22	7	100	48	3	2	23	18	358	19.3
3. Helicopter Used for Searching	10	12	9	25	19	10	6	12	4	107	5.8
4. Helicopter Used for Deployment	24	1	1	6	0	1	0	1	0	34	1.8
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	66	10	2	43	24	4	1	40	18	208	11.2
6. Subject(s) Found by Search Dog	6	0	4	2	5	0	0	2	3	22	1.2
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	92	8	9	2	47	0	1	1	9	169	9.1
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	312	22	9	214	130	1	0	59	40	787	42.5
9. Animal Rescues	15	0	2	5	1	1	3	3	5	35	1.9
10. Total Incidents - Deployments	600	230	122	292	314	55	32	123	83	1851	100.0
11. Total Incidents - Alerts/Standbys	34	30	11	131	23	17	4	9	7	266	14.4

## Note:

Row 1 - the number of incidents where a SAR aircraft (military or civilian) was called to or attended the scene of an incident.

Row 2 - the number of times the aircraft was used to evacuate subject(s) from the scene of an incident.

Row 3 - the number of instances where the aircraft was used in a searching role.

Row 4 - the number of times the aircraft was used to deploy personnel and/or equipment in support of an incident.

Row 5 - the number of instances where Mountain Rescue Search Dogs were called to or attended an incident.

Row 6 - the number of instances where the subject(s) were located by the SARDA dog

Row 7 - the number of incidents where a doctor attended the scene of an accident, in most cases these doctors are members of MR teams.

Row 8 - the number of incidents initiated using a mobile phone by the subject requiring assistance.

Row 9 - the number of animal rescue by MR teams; typically, cragfast sheep.

Row 10 - the total number of incidents requiring deployment by MR teams in this region.

Row 11 - the total number of times MR teams were contacted but it did not lead to a deployment; requests for assistance that were not eventually needed.