



# MOUNTAIN RESCUE ENGLAND AND WALES

PATRON - HRH THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

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## Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

# Incident Report 2012

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Further 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 2012

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2012	1080	30	635	1298
2011	1086	33	675	1326
2010	1126	53	658	1394
2009	1059	37	667	1471
2008	886	48	557	1202

The continued reduction, in all the above categories, is both welcome and encouraging. It is very easy to jump to conclusions about these decreases, but it would be unjustified without taking other factors into consideration. Whilst the weather can be said to contribute to the number of mountain accidents, there appears to be evidence to suggest that many would-be hill users were 'put off' by the persistently poor weather during 2012. There seems little evidence from the 2012 incidents that people are better prepared than in previous years. Many incidents resulted from over-ambition in both planning and execution; it is very rare that footwear and clothing are the major contributors to accidents. Poor navigation skills and inappropriate navigational gear however, figure prominently in rescuers' reports. Late starts, poor reading of terrain, and the ability to modify their plans have been cited many times in these reports.

Efforts to educate and improve skill levels must be addressed. For example, too high a price has been paid by rock scramblers during 2012; it is eight years since this figure stood at zero! In the last ten years, rock scrambling deaths total 27, whereas rock climbing deaths were 14 for the same period. The conclusions are very stark; many participants are ill-prepared for the activity. Efforts to address the consequences of challenge events does not seem to have abated; whilst they do not affect all areas, they do have a significant impact on already busy MRTs.

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

Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2012	458	49	114	306
2011	484	52	109	332
2010	725	44	118	336
2009	597	59	126	401
2008	457	57	99	346

2012 will be remembered for the wrong reasons; the circumstances relating to what must be the largest deployment of MR resources are still very raw in people's memories. The level of support afforded the police dealing with a child's disappearance in Machynlleth, Mid-Wales, must be remembered. We can only wish that the contribution of MR personnel in this search effort, gave some hope to parents, relative and residents. It is safe to say that members learned a great deal and the place of mountain rescue in all local communities has clearly received a significant boost.

Teams have witnessed a steady increase in the number of 'resilience' deployments; that is, when MRTs have been requested to assist the statutory services during busy periods and poor weather. Greater co-operation between teams and the ambulance service has been noted this year. It should not come as a surprise given the financial constraints that the statutory services are increasingly subject to.

Ged Feeney  
Statistics Officer MR(E&W)

## Summary Report | Mountain Incidents (pg2)

This report covers the period from 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012.

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	1	0	0	0	3	0.3
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0.2
Mountain Biking	Incidents	18	15	18	5	14	1	0	2	7	80	7.4
	Subjects	17	13	17	8	11	1	0	1	7	75	5.8
Hang-gliding	Incidents	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0.5
	Subjects	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0.3
Hill Walking (D of E)	Incidents	4	1	0	5	7	3	0	3	1	24	2.2
	Subjects	12	0	0	5	15	10	0	8	2	52	4.0
Hill Walking (Winter)DoE	Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0.5
Hill Walking	Incidents	265	42	48	126	133	16	0	39	58	727	67.3
	Subjects	319	46	63	178	138	19	0	48	76	887	68.3
Hill Walking (Winter)	Incidents	23	3	0	7	7	0	0	1	3	44	4.1
	Subjects	30	2	0	9	5	0	0	2	4	52	4.0
Fell Running	Incidents	10	8	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	24	2.2
	Subjects	9	9	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	22	1.7
Orienteering	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Parapenting	Incidents	2	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	8	0.7
	Subjects	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	8	0.6
River Crossing	Incidents	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing - roped	Incidents	5	3	1	13	19	0	0	0	0	41	3.8
	Subjects	3	3	1	31	20	0	0	0	0	58	4.5
Rock Climbing - unroped	Incidents	1	1	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	11	1.0
	Subjects	1	1	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	11	0.8
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	10	0	0	45	4	0	0	0	0	59	5.5
	Subjects	11	0	0	74	1	0	0	0	0	86	6.6
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	0.2
Search - Mountain	Incidents	9	5	0	16	7	3	0	4	4	48	4.4
	Subjects	7	4	0	7	5	2	0	2	3	30	2.3
Snow/Ice Climbing - roped	Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
Totals	Incidents	352	81	68	219	206	26	0	53	75	1080	100.0
	Subjects	415	80	82	315	209	33	0	65	99	1298	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 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012.

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	1	0	0	0	3	0.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	2	1	3	5	0	0	0	1	1	13	2.1
	Injured	14	12	13	3	11	1	0	0	6	60	9.4
	Fatal	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6.7
Hang-gliding	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Injured	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking (D of E)	Uninjured	9	0	0	0	11	7	0	6	1	34	5.4
	Injured	3	0	0	5	4	3	0	2	1	18	2.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking (Winter)DoE	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	1.0
	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
Hill Walking	Uninjured	159	16	41	102	51	9	0	26	34	438	69.9
	Injured	152	29	18	73	85	10	0	22	41	430	67.7
	Fatal	8	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	18	60.0
Hill Walking (Winter)	Uninjured	13	0	0	5	4	0	0	2	2	26	4.1
	Injured	15	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	2	24	3.8
	Fatal	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6.7
Fell Running	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Injured	7	9	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	20	3.1
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.3
Orienteering	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Parapenting	Uninjured	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0.5
	Injured	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.6
	Fatal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.3
Rock Climbing - roped	Uninjured	0	2	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	28	4.5
	Injured	3	1	1	5	20	0	0	0	0	30	4.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing - unroped	Uninjured	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Injured	1	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	10	1.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	3	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	54	8.6
	Injured	6	0	0	21	1	0	0	0	0	28	4.4
	Fatal	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	13.3
Rescue Team Activity	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Search - Mountain	Uninjured	4	3	0	6	3	2	0	1	3	22	3.5
	Injured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6.7
Snow/Ice Climbing - roped	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Uninjured	192	22	44	198	69	18	0	37	47	627	100.0
	Injured	207	55	33	111	136	15	0	27	51	635	100.0
	Fatal	14	3	5	5	2	0	0	0	1	30	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 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012.

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	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0.4
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Animal Rescue	Incidents	17	1	4	0	7	0	0	0	6	35	7.6
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fishing	Incidents	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.7
	Subjects	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.0
Local Incident	Incidents	42	48	19	19	37	2	0	9	5	181	39.5
	Subjects	25	26	5	12	18	1	0	7	4	98	32.0
Motor Sport	Incidents	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	3	0	9	2.0
	Subjects	0	1	8	0	2	0	0	1	0	12	3.9
Occupational	Incidents	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	8	1.7
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	6	2.0
Pony Trekking	Incidents	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	1.1
	Subjects	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	1.6
Road Traffic Collision	Incidents	6	3	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	15	3.3
	Subjects	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	2.3
Search - Non-mountain	Incidents	10	29	30	22	26	46	0	16	6	185	40.4
	Subjects	10	19	26	22	24	40	0	16	5	162	52.9
Sledging	Incidents	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
	Subjects	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.7
Water Sport (all types)	Incidents	4	2	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	13	2.8
	Subjects	7	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	11	3.6
Totals	Incidents	80	88	59	43	84	49	0	35	20	458	100.0
	Subjects	48	50	41	36	50	41	0	28	12	306	100.0

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

This report covers the period from 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012.

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	%
Fishing	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.9
	Fatal	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.1
Local Incident	Uninjured	8	2	2	4	4	0	0	4	0	24	20.5
	Injured	14	19	2	6	13	1	0	2	4	61	53.5
	Fatal	3	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	11	22.4
Motor Sport	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	8	0	2	0	0	1	0	12	10.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Occupational	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.9
	Injured	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	5	4.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Pony Trekking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	4.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Road Traffic Collision	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.9
	Injured	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	5.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Search - Non-mountain	Uninjured	5	6	15	16	7	30	0	4	4	87	74.4
	Injured	0	2	2	1	3	5	0	4	0	17	14.9
	Fatal	3	5	7	1	9	4	0	4	1	34	69.4
Sledging	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Injured	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Water Sport (all types)	Uninjured	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.4
	Injured	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	4.4
	Fatal	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.1
Totals	Uninjured	17	8	17	21	11	30	0	9	4	117	100.0
	Injured	21	26	13	7	24	6	0	10	7	114	100.0
	Fatal	8	9	9	4	10	4	0	4	1	49	100.0

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

This report covers the period from 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012, during which time 1080 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	0	0	0	0.0
2. Belay / Runner Failure	1	0	6	0	0	7	0.6
3. Benighted	45	1	4	0	0	50	4.6
4. Cragfast	20	5	34	0	2	61	5.6
5. Fall or Tumble	114	7	61	1	45	228	21.1
6. Lightning	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1
7. Lost or Overdue	141	13	8	0	9	171	15.8
8. Medical Collapse or Illness	62	1	0	0	2	65	6.0
9. Overdue or Missing	41	0	0	0	25	66	6.1
10. Rockfall	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1
11. Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	10	0	2	0	12	24	2.2
12. Slip. Trip or Stumble	246	25	12	0	6	289	26.8
13. Unable to Continue	46	2	4	0	2	54	5.0
14. Totals Incidents	776	45	114	1	144	1080	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 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012, during which time 897 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	203	14	27	0	17	22	283
2. Upper Leg & Knee	55	3	7	0	6	5	76
3. Pelvis	4	0	10	1	5	4	24
4. Abdomen	6	0	1	0	0	1	8
5. Chest & Shoulder	18	2	5	0	15	10	50
6. Back & Neck	38	1	13	0	5	26	83
7. Arm & Hand	23	2	5	0	4	8	42
8. Head	47	3	17	0	6	10	83
9. Fractures	158	11	33	0	31	29	262
10. Lacerations etc.	35	1	8	0	8	8	60
11. Exhaustion	14	0	1	0	0	1	16
12. Hypothermia	18	3	0	0	2	16	39
13. Heart Attack (non-fatal)	10	0	0	0	0	4	14
14. Heart Attack (fatal)	7	0	0	0	1	2	10
15. Illness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Total	530	31	75	1	83	177	897

## 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 01/01/2012 and 31/12/2012, during which time 1702 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	140	34	35	102	85	19	0	26	26	467	30.4
2. Helicopter Used for Evacuation	102	16	16	82	63	7	0	19	16	321	20.9
3. Helicopter Used for Searching	14	12	14	20	11	13	0	8	3	95	6.2
4. Helicopter Used for Deployment	17	1	1	3	2	3	0	0	2	29	1.9
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	16	9	6	26	22	13	0	24	9	125	8.1
6. Subject(s) Found by Search Dog	2	2	1	3	6	0	0	2	1	17	1.1
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	84	6	27	8	34	0	0	0	8	167	10.9
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	215	13	41	218	148	10	0	43	45	733	47.7
9. Animal Rescues	17	1	4	0	7	0	0	0	6	35	2.3
10. Total Incidents - Deployments	432	169	127	262	290	75	0	88	95	1538	100.0
11. Total Incidents - Alerts/Standbys	31	11	7	79	18	8	0	3	7	164	10.7

## 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.