

PATRON - HRH THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

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# **Mountain Rescue**

(England and Wales)

# **Incident Report 2014**

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

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### Mountain Rescue (England and Wales)

### **Incident Report 2014**

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

Table 1 Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2014	1051	29	643	1291
2013	1027	21	637	1194
2012	1080	30	635	1298
2011	1086	33	675	1326
2010	1126	53	658	1394

This year's mountain incident total shows a four-year decrease. Likewise the number of people injured shows a similar decrease. However, this cannot be said for both fatalities and total persons assisted. However, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (July – Sept) of 2014, the total number of incidents was the highest on record. A mild and settled start to the year produced fewer incidents; likewise, the end of the year was quiet. In spite of the annual figure being low, this masks a dramatic spike in the summer months.

The year has seen a welcome reduction in mountain bike incidents; however, this number still exceeds rock climbing incidents and exceeds scrambling incidents. The popularity of mountain biking will ensure that this number will be seen in years to come, if not an increase. This year has seen a significant increase in the incidents involving fell runners; the figure represents a 35% increase over the 2013 level which was fairly high in its own right compared to the previous three years. The nature of the sport, being light-weight and solitary means the level of risk is considerably higher than hill walking.

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

Table 2 Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injured	Persons assisted
2014	424	31	87	311
2013	483	45	76	294
2012	458	49	114	306
2011	484	52	109	332
2010	725	44	118	336

There is not the same variation between regions in non-mountain incidents compared to mountain incidents. All regions report a large commitment to searching for missing persons. These incidents are often protracted in duration, many are conducted over multiple days and all require good co-operation between partners, statutory and voluntary.

The support provided by mountain rescue to the ambulance service has also been a significant part of the workload in recent years. This year has been no exception. Many teams report being 'stood down while responding'. This is not treated as a disappointment. Volunteers would much prefer this situation to one where they could have contributed significantly but were never alerted.

Ged Feeney Statistics Officer MR(E&W) 11/05/2015

## **Summary Report | Mountain Incidents (pg2)**

This report covers the period from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014.

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	Peni- sula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Abseiling	Incidents	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Subjects	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Mountain Biking	Incidents	13	16	15	4	14	2	0	4	2	70	6.7
	Subjects	12	16	12	4	12	2	0	7	2	67	5.2
Cave/Mine	Incidents	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	4	0.4
Exploration	Subjects	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	6	0.5
Hang-gliding	Incidents	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.2
	Subjects	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Hill Walking (D of	Incidents	14	1	3	1	7	1	1	7	0	35	3.3
E)	Subjects	18	1	2	4	19	4	1	43	0	92	7.1
Hill Walking	Incidents	299	26	34	137	85	19	0	43	62	705	67.1
	Subjects	359	24	28	188	88	27	0	68	76	858	66.5
Hill Walking	Incidents	12	0	0	13	2	0	0	1	0	28	2.7
(Winter)	Subjects	16	0	0	19	2	0	0	1	0	38	2.9
Fell Running	Incidents	14	5	1	1	11	1	0	3	3	39	3.7
	Subjects	9	4	0	1	11	1	0	4	3	33	2.6
Orienteering	Incidents	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
	Subjects	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Parapenting	Incidents	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	6	0.6
	Subjects	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.3
Rock Climbing -	Incidents	13	2	0	14	19	0	0	2	3	53	5.0
roped	Subjects	12	2	0	23	16	0	0	2	2	57	4.4
Rock Climbing -	Incidents	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	0.5
unroped	Subjects	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	0.4
Rock Scrambling	Incidents	5	0	0	44	1	0	0	0	8	58	5.5
	Subjects	5	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	8	103	8.0
Rescue Team	Incidents	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Activity	Subjects	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2
Search - Mountain	Incidents	11	3	0	12	4	4	0	4	2	40	3.8
	Subjects	3	3	0	6	3	2	0	4	1	22	1.7
Totals	Incidents	384	54	56	231	151	27	2	64	82	1051	100.0
	Subjects	436	51	45	340	157	36	4	129	93	1291	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 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014.

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.

prevailing weather contain		Lake	Mid	N.E.	North	Peak	Peni-	S.W.	South	Yorks		
Activity		District	Pennine	England	Wales	District	sula	England	Wales	Dales	Total	%
Abseiling	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
3	Injured	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mountain Biking	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	5	0.8
3	Injured	12	16	12	4	11	2	0	2	2	61	9.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3.4
Cave/Mine	Uninjured	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	5	0.8
Exploration	Injured	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
·	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
3 3 3	Injured	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking (D of	Uninjured	6	0	1	4	16	4	0	39	0	70	11.4
E)	Injured	12	1	1	0	3	0	1	4	0	22	3.4
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Hill Walking	Uninjured	171	3	13	103	29	16	0	48	25	408	66.3
3	Injured	180	19	15	82	56	10	0	19	46	427	66.4
	Fatal	8	2	0	3	3	1	0	1	5	23	79.3
Hill Walking	Uninjured	8	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	19	3.1
(Winter)	Injured	8	0	0	8	2	0	0	1	0	19	3.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fell Running	Uninjured	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	7	1.1
3	Injured	8	4	0	1	7	1	0	2	3	26	4.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Orienteering	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Grioritooring	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
raraporting	Injured	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	0.5
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Climbing -	Uninjured	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	16	2.6
roped	Injured	11	2	0	5	16	0	0	2	2	38	5.9
	Fatal	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	10.3
Rock Climbing -	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
unroped	Injured	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	8.0
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rock Scrambling	Uninjured	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	71	11.5
3	Injured	5	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	8	31	4.8
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.4
Rescue Team	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Activity	Injured	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Search - Mountain	Uninjured	3	0	0	4	1	2	0	2	1	13	2.1
	Injured	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	0.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3.4
Totals	Uninjured	190	3	14	211	51	22	3	95	26	615	100.0
	Injured	237	45	31	121	102	13	1	31	62	643	100.0
	Fatal	9	2	0	6	4	1	0	2	5	29	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 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014.

The report confines itself to those incidentsnot 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	Peni- sula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
Aircrash - civil	Incidents	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.5
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0
Animal Rescue	Incidents	14	2	3	4	3	0	0	1	3	30	7.1
	Subjects	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.0
Bird Watching	Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fishing	Incidents	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.7
	Subjects	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.6
Local Incident	Incidents	30	22	18	5	27	5	1	4	8	120	28.3
	Subjects	12	11	14	3	13	2	0	3	4	62	19.9
Motor Sport	Incidents	2	0	5	1	3	0	0	2	1	14	3.3
	Subjects	3	0	8	1	6	0	0	2	1	21	6.8
Occupational	Incidents	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	11	2.6
	Subjects	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	1.9
Pony Trekking	Incidents	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.1
	Subjects	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.3
Road Traffic	Incidents	11	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	17	4.0
Collision	Subjects	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	2.9
Search - Non-	Incidents	19	24	47	16	18	29	22	17	4	196	46.2
mountain	Subjects	16	23	42	17	16	24	20	16	4	178	57.2
Sledging	Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
Water Sport (all	Incidents	8	0	4	3	2	0	0	1	1	19	4.5
types)	Subjects	5	0	5	5	2	0	0	1	1	19	6.1
Major Incident	Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	Incidents	90	52	88	31	57	35	23	29	19	424	100.0
	Subjects	45	37	77	28	41	26	20	26	11	311	100.0

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

This report covers the period from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014.

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 during severe weather, problems with access or major incidents.

Activity		Lake District	Mid Pennine	N.E. England	North Wales	Peak District	Peni- sula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
3	Uninjured	DISTRICT 0	0	0 England	0 vvales	3	Sula	Erigianu 0	0 vvales	Dales 0	3	1.9
Aircrash - civil	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
	Uninjured	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.9
Animal Rescue	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
	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Fishing	Injured	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Uninjured	0	2	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	15	9.3
Local Incident	Injured	11	8	5	1	11	1	0	2	3	42	48.3
	Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	9.7
<del> </del>	Uninjured	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	5.6
Motor Sport	Injured	1	0	2	0	6	0	0	1	1	11	12.6
	Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.2
	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Occupational	Injured	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	6.9
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Uninjured	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.2
Pony Trekking	Injured	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	5.7
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Uninjured	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.5
Road Traffic	Injured	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	4.6
Collision	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3.2
	Uninjured	13	11	26	11	10	17	16	10	3	117	72.2
Search - Non-	Injured	0	2	3	0	0	1	10	2	1	10	11.5
mountain	Fatal	1	1	6	4	4	5	2	0	0	23	74.2
<u></u>	Uninjured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Sledging	Injured	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Uninjured	4	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	9	5.6
Water Sport (all	Injured	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	7	8.0
types)	Fatal	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	9.7
Totals	Uninjured	23	13	48	16	15	17	16	11	3	162	100.0
IUIdIS	Injured	23 18	13	15	4	19	2	10	9	6	87	100.0
	Fatal						5	2	2	2		100.0
	Faial	2	1	6	6	5	5	2	2	2	31	100.0

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

This report covers the period from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014, during which time 1051 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:

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	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
2. Belay / Runner Failure	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.2
3. Benighted	28	2	1	0	1	32	3.0
4. Cragfast	34	3	30	0	0	67	6.4
5. Fall or Tumble	112	5	69	0	55	241	22.9
6. Lightning	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1
7. Lost or Overdue	135	3	6	0	4	148	14.1
8. Medical Collapse or Illness	72	2	1	0	2	77	7.3
9. Overdue or Missing	46	0	2	0	23	71	6.8
10. Rockfall	2	0	2	0	0	4	0.4
11. Shouts, Lights or Flares Reported	5	1	0	0	4	10	1.0
12. Slip. Trip or Stumble	234	13	19	0	2	268	25.5
13. Unable to Continue	54	3	2	0	1	60	5.7
14. Totals Incidents	781	28	118	0	124	1051	100.0

### Notes:

<sup>&</sup>quot;...tripped on footpath whilst walking and fell 2 metres onto rocky ground."

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 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014, during which time 880 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	193	7	20	0	7	17	244
2. Upper Leg & Knee	58	1	7	0	6	6	78
3. Pelvis	5	0	2	0	1	5	13
4. Abdomen	5	0	0	0	2	0	7
5. Chest & Shoulder	37	3	10	0	18	12	80
6. Back & Neck	23	2	14	0	6	10	55
7. Arm & Hand	19	1	11	0	12	5	48
8. Head	40	3	19	0	10	10	82
9. Fractures	131	4	28	0	20	30	213
10. Lacerations etc.	19	2	7	0	6	6	40
11. Exhaustion	12	0	0	0	1	0	13
12. Hypothermia	20	0	0	0	2	3	25
13. Heart Attack (non-fatal)	8	0	0	0	1	0	9
14. Heart Attack (fatal)	9	0	0	0	1	1	11
15. Illness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Total	549	19	81	0	73	158	880

#### 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 01/01/2014 and 31/12/2014, during which time 1623 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	Peni- sula	S.W. England	South Wales	Yorks Dales	Total	%
1. Incidents Attended by Helicopter	147	25	33	116	53	24	5	27	28	458	31.1
Helicopter Used for Evacuation	100	15	20	92	41	7	1	14	16	306	20.7
3. Helicopter Used for Searching	14	6	8	14	6	15	5	10	2	80	5.4
4. Helicopter Used for Deployment	23	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	1	31	2.1
5. Incidents Attended by SARDA Dogs	25	3	5	10	13	3	5	24	2	90	6.1
6. Subject(s) Found by Search Dog	4	1	2	1	6	0	0	1	0	15	1.0
7. Incidents Attended by a Doctor	55	5	18	10	11	1	0	1	6	107	7.3
8. Incidents Initiated by Mobile Phone	202	9	46	225	64	3	0	50	56	655	44.4
9. Animal Rescues	14	2	3	4	3	0	0	1	3	30	2.0
10. Total Incidents - Deployments	474	106	144	262	208	62	25	93	101	1475	100.0
11. Total Incidents - Alerts/Standbys	36	10	11	61	9	9	7	0	5	148	10.0

### 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 atteended an incident.
- Row 6 the number of instances where the subject(s) were located by the SARDA  $\log$
- 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.