

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Annual Statistical Report 2017



Volunteering to save lives



This Annual Statistical Report is a supplement to the Scottish Mountain Rescue Review 2017.

For more information on Scottish Mountain Rescue and our affiliated groups visit our site:

scottishmountainrescue.org



Compiled by Mark Leyland:
statistician@scottishmountainrescue.org

*Scottish Mountain Rescue is a
registered Scottish Charity
- No. SC045003*

Scottish Mountain Rescue is a community of 23 voluntary civilian Mountain Rescue Teams spread across Scotland.

Responding to requests from Police Scotland the teams provide a world class Search And Rescue (SAR) service that is free at the point of need and available whenever needed.

Any Hour, Any Day, Any Weather...

This report includes data gathered from the civilian member teams as well as three Police Scotland MRT's and one RAF MRT.

Scottish Mountain Rescue are proud to represent our member teams.



People are often aware of the work of the active volunteers in mountain rescue teams across Scotland, but they are the tip of an iceberg of support and help that enables rescue teams to respond to incidents.





A TRUE STORY...

Mountain Rescue Teams throughout the country are on standby 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They respond to a wide variety of call outs from minor incidents to life-threatening emergencies.

To give a flavour of some incidents, a selection of comments from the Team incident reports are below:



3 members of walking party who were tired decided to descend hill but did not return to car. Group leader called police, MRT attended. Party located safe and well after navigational error.



Callout text - Near the top of the mountain 4 walkers stuck due to severe weather. This was in weather which had been widely forecast as a yellow warning for wind and snow at sea level.



Team received request for assistance from member of public in regard to his Jack Russell terrier, stuck in bramble briar, above a moss covered crag. 4 members attended and had to break a path through gorse and brambles to reach location on a steep wet slippery slope. A Rope system was set up to allow member to head down a moss covered wet slippery crag, clearing brambles to gain access to the dog trapped in brambles. Dog was cut free, and recovered. Happy dog counselled by owner about chasing birds and rabbits.



...a vague 999 call was from a 42-year old female who stated that both she and her 14-year old daughter were lost in a blizzard somewhere in the vicinity of Loch ... Having been on the hill since 11.00 hours the previous morning. She confirmed that they had sought refuge in a hut overnight having been caught out by the weather, but having tried to get to safety at first light, were now lost and struggling to keep going.



Runner collapsed, at event, was treated by MRT (bag & mask + CPR, including 5 shocks with AED) till Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) arrived, further treatment carried on.



Female hillwalker near the summit of Beinn... took a slip/trip landed badly and dislocated her elbow.



Team were gathering information on an overdue/missing male walker when he was found by police a long way from his intended destination.



Alarm raised when it was found that walkers "Spot Nav device" stopped sending location. Police MR deployed and located the car and shortly thereafter the person at a well known camping spot. Missing person had sent a message reached their planned camping spot, and it wasn't received.



Mountain Rescue in Scotland is coordinated by Police Scotland. They receive the initial callout through the 999 system and then task the most appropriate resource, which on the mountains is usually the local Mountain Rescue Team (MRT). Each MRT is an autonomous organisation who submit their reports to the Statistician of Scottish Mountain Rescue (SMR), the representative body for the majority of MRT's in Scotland.

There are 27 voluntary civilian Mountain Rescue Teams in Scotland, of which 23 are member of Scottish Mountain Rescue. This report for 2017 is compiled from information received from the 23 civilian and 3 Police Scotland teams that are members of Scottish Mountain Rescue.

This annual report covers the calendar year from January 1st to December 31st 2017.

- Aberdeen MRT
 - Arran MRT
 - Arrochar MRT
 - Assynt MRT
 - Borders SAR Unit
 - Braemar MRT
 - Dundonnell MRT
 - Galloway MRT
 - Glenelg MRT
 - Glenmore Lodge MRT
 - Hebrides MRT
 - Killin MRT
 - Kintail MRT
 - Lomond MRT
 - Moffat MRT
 - Oban MRT
 - Ochils MRT
 - SARDA (Scotland)
 - SARDA (Southern Scotland)
 - Scottish Cave Rescue Organisation
 - Skye MRT
 - Torridon MRT
 - Tweed Valley MRT
-
- Police Scotland (Grampian) MRT
 - Police Scotland (Strathclyde) MRT
 - Police Scotland (Tayside) MRT

Important Note:

This report does not include incidents from non-member teams, the exception is where the SMR teams have assisted these teams.

Due to this, direct comparisons of quantity can only be drawn against the 2016 SMR report. Where available, 2016 figures follow the 2017 numbers for comparison.



INCIDENTS, CALL-OUTS AND HOURS:



INCIDENTS

An **incident** is defined as a single event that requires the services of an MRT. The resolution of this incident may need several **call-outs** of a team (or teams) for example during a prolonged search.

423 (2016 = 436)
Total number of incidents in 2017.

216 involved the sport of mountaineering



51%

207 were non-mountaineering incidents



49%



CALL-OUTS

642

activations of Teams were recorded during 2017.

Including giving advice, "stand-bys" and multi-day missions...

2016 = 733 2017 = 642

That's an average of **more than two every day!**



HOURS

Mountain rescue volunteers gave up

22,076

of their time during call-outs.

That's the equivalent of one person working **OVER 460** consecutive **48** hour weeks ...

Voluntarily



PEOPLE HELPED

During 2017

553

people were assisted



Also rescued were **four** dogs and **three** sheep!



TYPE OF INCIDENT:

Mountain Rescue Teams are asked to respond to a variety of incident types. The breakdown by primary type is shown below.

TYPE AND DESCRIPTION	NO. INCIDENTS 2017	NO. INCIDENTS 2016
Rescue <i>(the subject is at a known location and requires assistance)</i>	153	158
Search and Rescue <i>(the subject is unsure of their location and requires assistance)</i>	106	108
Search <i>(little information exists to locate the subject)</i>	78	104
Medical Emergency	17	Not Known
Police Investigation	10	14
False alarm	14	10
Body recovery	13	9
Technical Rescue <i>(Steep ground ropework is needed to access, treat or evacuate the subject)</i>	6	7
Other	4	7
Search - water <i>(little information exists to locate the subject next to, or in, water)</i>	6	6
Animal Rescue	8	6
Civil Resilience <i>(response to natural or man made disasters)</i>	2	4
Water Rescue <i>(the subject requires assistance in a water environment at a known location)</i>	3	3
Advice	1	0
Not recorded	2	0



INCIDENTS

All incidents involving Scottish Mountain Rescue Teams are reported in two broad categories, Mountaineering and Non-Mountaineering.

Since 2010, this classification is based on the activity being undertaken. "Mountaineering" includes Climbing or Hillwalking in both Summer and Winter. It also includes personnel on Mountain Rescue missions.

MOUNTAINEERING INCIDENTS



216 incidents involved mountaineers

Mountaineering incidents by activity:

ACTIVITY	HILLWALKING (SUMMER)	HILLWALKING (WINTER)	ROCK CLIMBING	SCRAMBLING	SNOW/ICE CLIMBING	MRT ACTIVITY
2017 NO.	158	47	5	4	1	1
2017 %	73%	21%	2%	2%	0.5%	0.5%
2016 NO.	173	41	9	4	6	2
2016 %	74%	17%	4%	2%	3%	1%



Hillwalking Summer 73%

Hillwalking Winter 21%

Rock Climbing and scrambling 4%

Other 1%



342 mountaineers were assisted

PERIOD	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	UNSPECIFIED
2017	342	159	138	45
2016	395	205	124	66



MOUNTAINEERING INCIDENTS CONTINUED

Primary Cause of mountaineering incidents:

CAUSE	NO.	2017 %	2016 %	CAUSE	NO.	2017 %	2016 %
Slip/Trip	74	34%	31%	Exhaustion	0	0%	1%
Lost	49	23%	16%	Missing equipment	5	2%	1%
Overdue	12	6%	13%	Technology reliance	0	0%	1%
Cragfast	8	4%	10%	Avalanche-natural	0	0%	0.5%
Nav Error	23	11%	6%	Flooding	0	0%	0.5%
Fall	15	7%	6%	Hoax call	0	0%	0.5%
Separated	3	1%	4%	Over extended	0	0%	0.5%
Benighted	3	1%	3%	PLB activation	0	0%	0.5%
Medical Emergency	17	8%	3%	Rockfall	0	0%	0.5%
Other	2	1%	0	Weatherbound	4	2%	0.5%
River Crossing	1	0.5%	0%				

As in previous years, the simple slip or trip is the most common cause of requiring assistance.

The combination of navigational error or being lost are also a very common cause of requiring assistance.



Injury Types (62% of people rescued were uninjured in 2017)

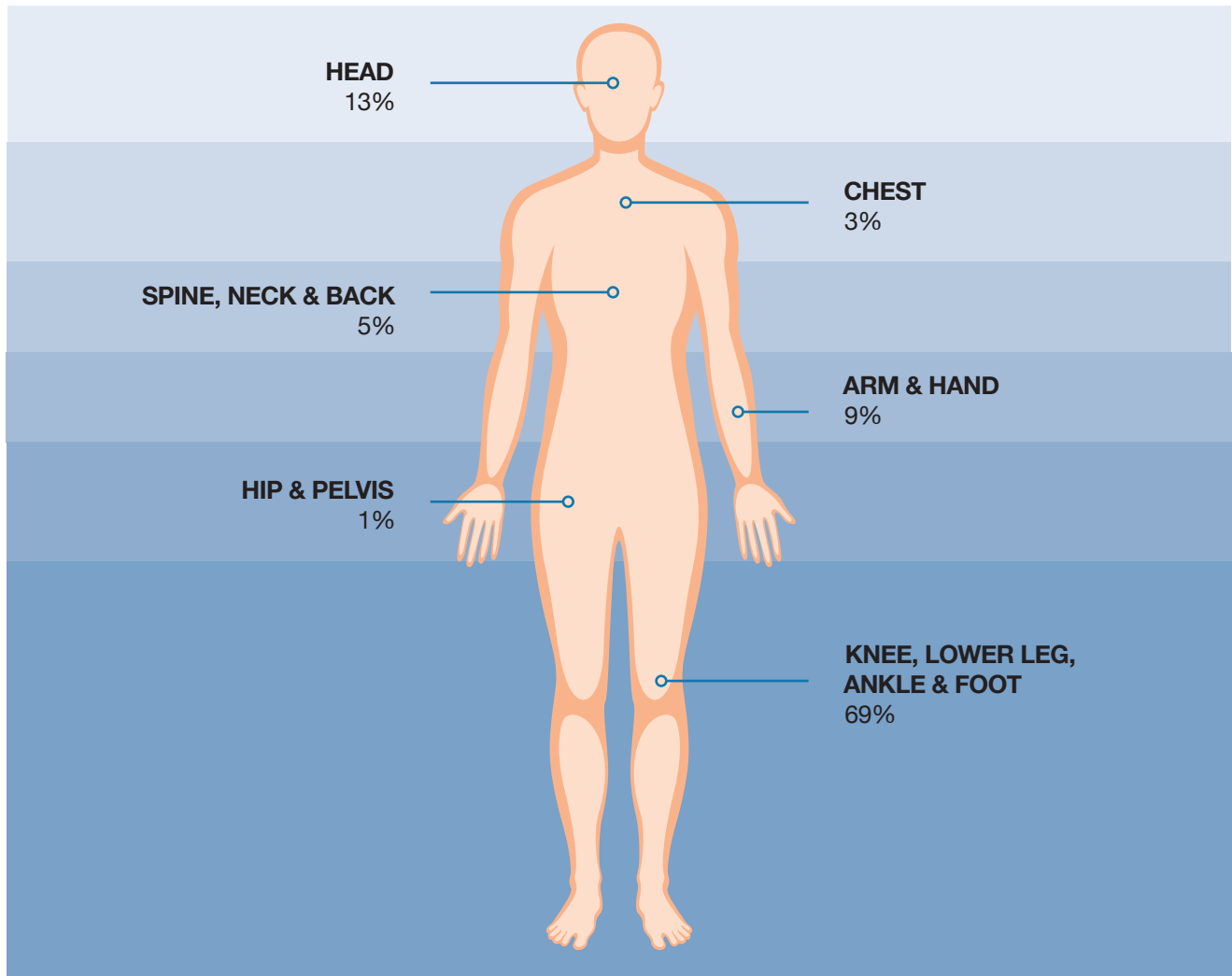
INJURY TYPE	2017 %	2016 %
Fracture/Dislocation	50%	29%
Unknown	9%	21%
Sprains	13%	10%
Minor	1%	7%
Fatal	3%	6%
Other	0%	6%
Hypothermia	3%	5%
Lacerations	6%	0%
Multiple	2%	0%
Illness/Medical	6%	4%
Bruising	1%	1%
Exhaustion	0%	1%
Internal	1%	1%
Pain	2%	1%
Dizziness	0%	1%
Heart	2%	0%
Seizure	2%	0%

It can be seen that the vast majority of mountaineers are rescued uninjured. Where trauma does occur and is recorded, the site of the injury is shown overleaf.



INCIDENTS CONTINUED

INJURY SITE:



LOCATION	NO.	LOCATION	NO.
Ankle	37	Shoulder	2
Lower Leg	22	Spinal	2
Head	13	Upper Arm + Elbow	2
Knee	9	Leg	2
Hand + Wrist	4	Neck	1
Chest	3	Pelvis	1
Lower Arm	3	Thigh	1
Back	2	Foot	1

People may have more than one injury. Trauma to the lower leg continues to be the most common site of injury.



DEMOGRAPHICS OF MOUNTAINEERS



Nationality was recorded for **200** mountaineers

NATIONALITY	NO.	NATIONALITY	NO.
United Kingdom	171	Denmark	1
Netherlands	8	Ireland	1
France	7	Lithuania	1
Belgium	3	Sweden	1
Germany	3	USA	1
New Zealand	2	Australia	1

Where a mountaineer is from one of the home nations of the United Kingdom.

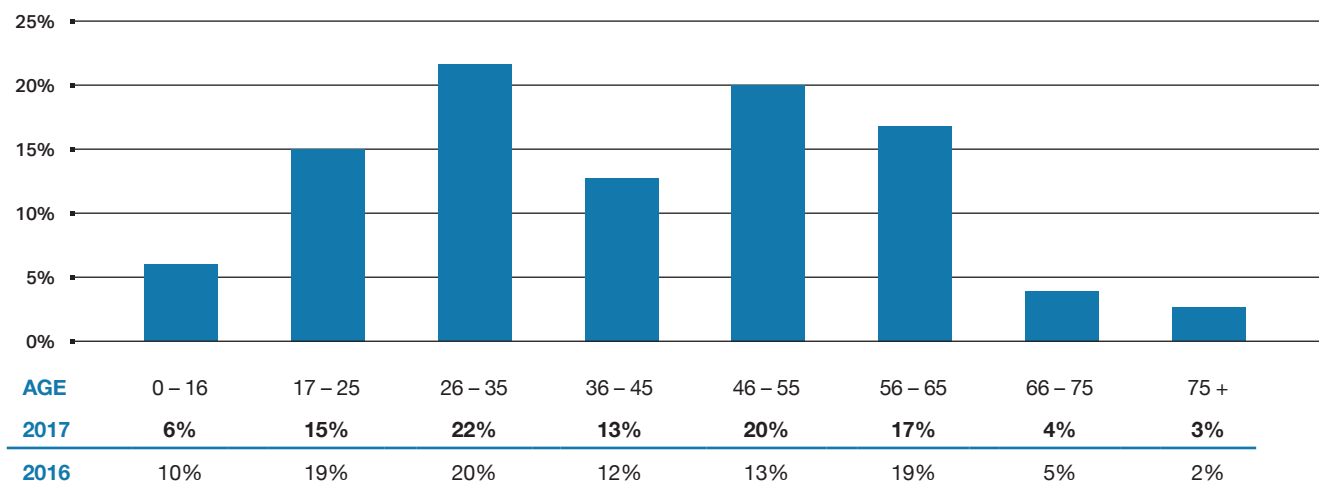
HOME NATIONS	2017 %	2016 %
Scotland	60	64
England	18	15
Wales	0	0
Northern Ireland	0	0
Not Recorded	22	20

In 2016, 18 nations were represented compared to 12 in 2017.

AGE RANGE



Ages were recorded for **232** mountaineers involved in incidents





NON-MOUNTAINEERING INCIDENTS – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mountain Rescue Teams grew locally as a result of a need in their community. Over time, the needs of the community change, and with it the capabilities of the MRTs to respond to these needs. Throughout 2017, Teams continued to respond to a wide variety of calls for help and their activity is recorded in this section.



205 incidents supporting the community

Incidents by activity :

ACTIVITY	2017 NO.	2016 RANK	ACTIVITY	2017 NO.	2016 RANK
Rural walking	53	2	Equestrian	3	8
Missing person	32	1	Fishing	3	8
Not recorded	32	=10	Swimming	2	=12
Cycling	24	4	Airports/Aircraft	1	=11
Self harm	10	5	Resilience	1	
Running	9	6	4x4/ ATV driving	0	
Working	9	8	Body recovery	0	
Other	7	3	Gorge walking	0	
Animal Rescue	6	7	Skiing	0	
Motor vehicle	6	=11	Police investigation	0	10
Canyoning	4	=12	Canoe/Kayak/Raft	0	=11
Duke of Edinburgh's	3	=11			

This year, walking in rural areas but not in the mountains has risen to the most common activity.

Primary Causes :

Where recorded, the primary factor initiating the incident is shown below.

CAUSES	NO.	CAUSES	NO.	CAUSES	NO.
Reported missing	30	Medical	7	Cragfast	2
Slip/ trip	27	Fall	7	Tree fall	1
Lost	20	Technology reliance	0	Knife wound	1
Self harm	15	Missing equipment	1	Equipment failure	1
Nav Error	8	Stuck	3	Benighted	1
Overdue	3	Fall from Horse	3		
Fall from bike	14	ATV incident	3		
Weather-bound	4	River crossing	1		
False Alarm	0	Illness	2		
Separated	1	Drowning	2		

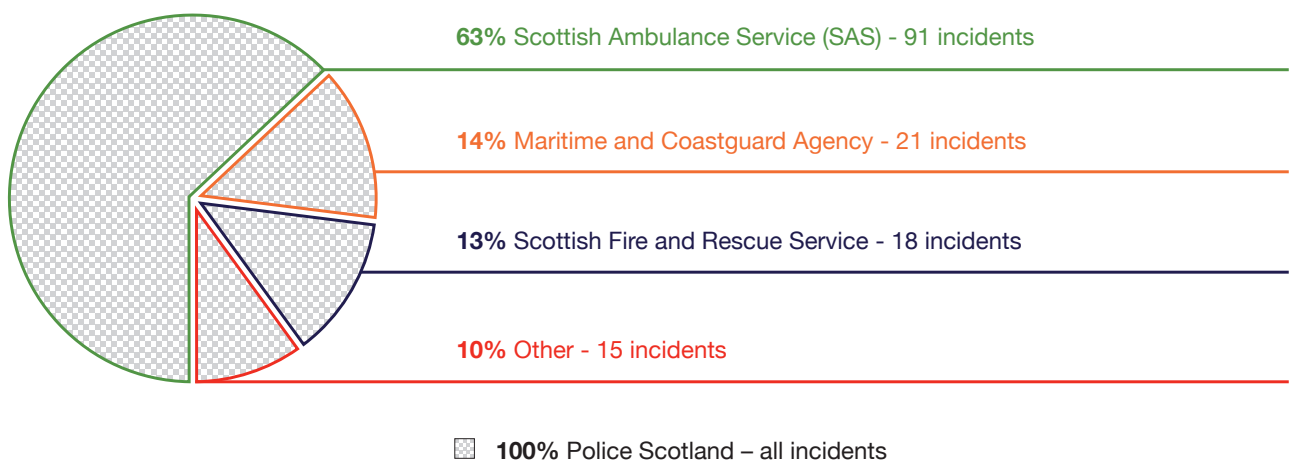
The most frequent tasking is in response to a missing person enquiry, most often in rural areas.



JOINT WORKING – ALL INCIDENT TYPES

Mountain Rescue Teams are called out by and work closely with Police Scotland to resolve every incident. In addition, teams worked closely with a number of other partner agencies.

AGENCY	NO.
Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS)	91
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	21
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	18
Loch Lomond Rescue Boat	4
SAS Special Operations Response Team	2
Northumberland MR service	2
Police Search Teams (NOT Police MR)	1
Cairngorm Mountain Ski Patrol	1
AA rescue	1
Police Dive / Marine Unit	1
Royal Logistic Corps	1
Scottish Charity Air Ambulance	1
Forestry Commission Rangers	1





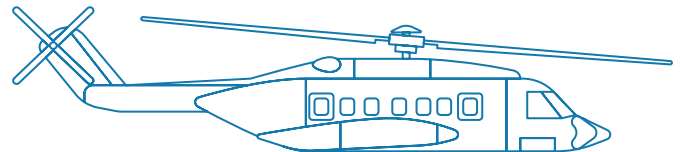
WORKING WITH HELICOPTERS

MRTs work closely with helicopter services across the country.

FLIGHT	NO.
Rescue 951 (MCA Inverness)	37
Rescue 948 (MCA Stornaway)	31
Rescue 999 (MCA Prestwick)	21
Rescue 199 (MCA Prestwick)	20
Police	13
Helimed	12
Other	4
North East Air Ambulance	2

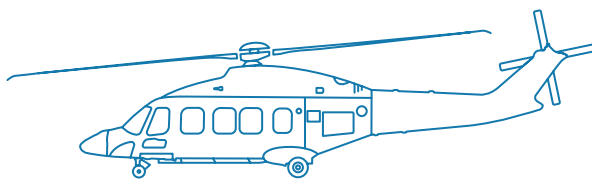
Flights 999, 951 and 948 use a Sikorsky S92 Aircraft.

Flight 199 replaced Flt 999 in June 2017 and use Augusta Westland AW189 aircraft.

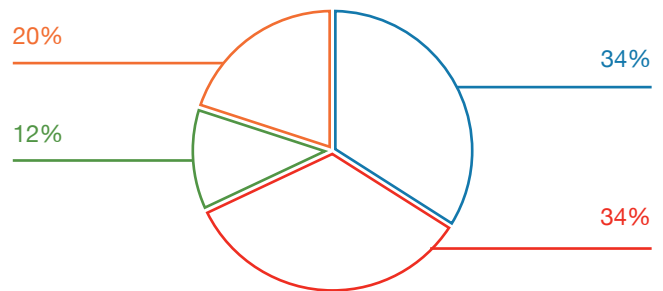


Helicopters were used in

140
incidents.



How helicopters were used:



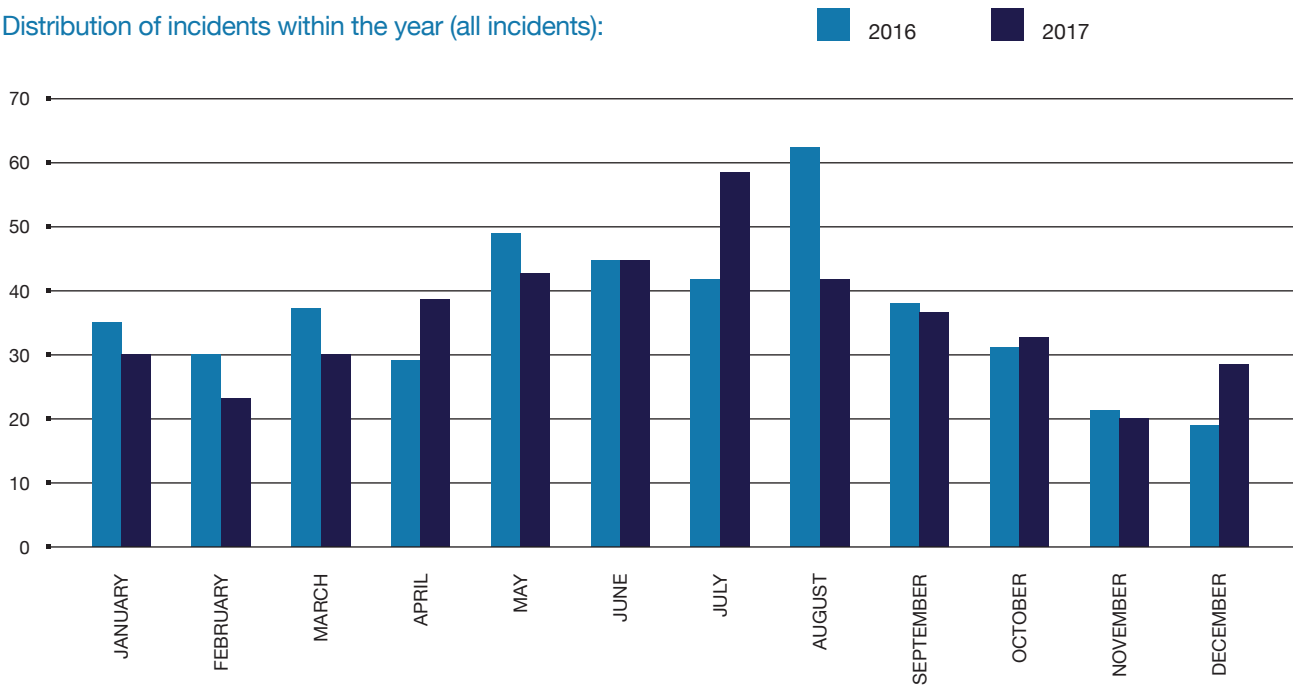
USE	NO.
Search	61
Rescue	36
Transport	22
Evacuation	61

Many aircraft had more than one role.



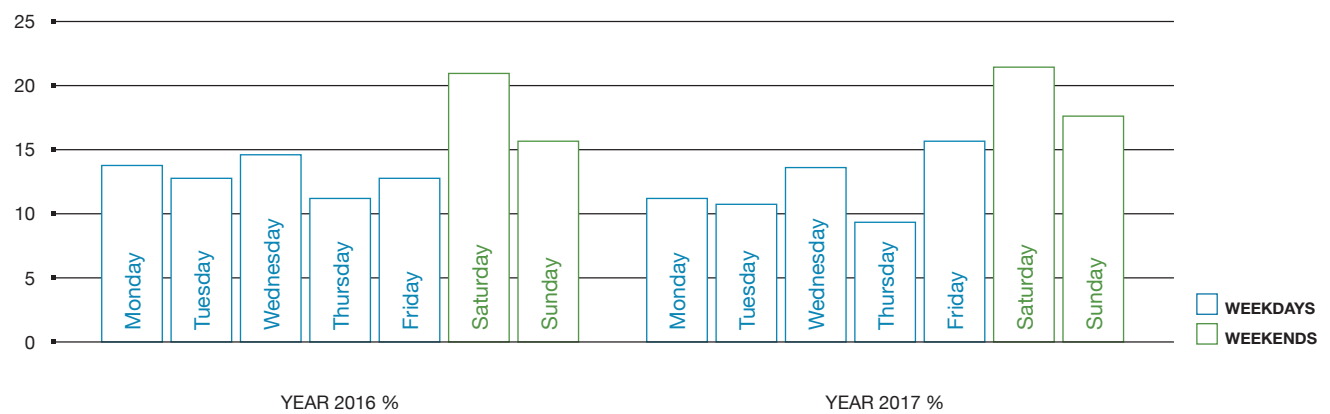
PATTERNS OF INCIDENTS

Distribution of incidents within the year (all incidents):



In 2017, July was the busiest month for Teams compared to the previous years when it has been consistently in August.

INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK:



Saturday continues to be the busiest day of the week but it has a slight % increase compared to previous years. Thursday is the quietest day.



CALLOUTS BY TEAM

Combined for all SMR Teams

Note: Team callouts. In some areas, there is a joint response from two Teams to an incident or the incident may require the support of neighbouring teams. The number of callouts is therefore greater than the incident figure.

AREA	2017		2016		2015	
	CALLOUTS	HOURS	CALLOUTS	HOURS	CALLOUTS	HOURS
Aberdeen	8	531	20	828.5	6	119
Arran	32	2046.2	22	716.8	28	1098.9
Arrochar	16	429.6	24	991.3	25	1368
Assynt	11	132	9	198	10	403
Braemar	25	645.5	51	1592	22	625
Borders	20	677.9	24	1090.5	14	850.1
Dundonnell	30	1138.5	30	1387.5	35	1953
Galloway	14	722.4	14	433	14	1183
Glenelg	1	26	4	80.5	4	98.5
Glenmore Lodge	7	70	7	74	1	32
Hebrides	20	535.8	19	715	7	263
Killin	42	2167.3	35	1505.5	28	1625.5
Kintail	12	296	10	393.5	8	393.5
Lomond	36	1350.8	24	1243.7	33	1615.5
Moffat	11	520	13	748	19	841.5
Oban	14	684.8	23	1225.7	25	1247
Ochils	18	701.2	19	557.5	26	599.4
Skye	43	1425	49	1947.5	53	2934.6
Torridon	12	326.5	22	522	25	947
Tweed Valley	32	1275.5	32	1519	24	1698
SARDA (Scotland)	36	362.4	63	962.1	78	1864.3
SARDA (Southern)	26	374.5	46	372.5	49	415
Scottish Cave Rescue	0		2	11	2	6.5
Total	466	16438	562	19115	536	22181

Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Teams

TEAM	2017		2016		2015	
	CALLOUTS	HOURS	CALLOUTS	HOURS	CALLOUTS	HOURS
Police Scotland (Grampian)	27	381	51	1183.2	23	432.5
Police Scotland (Strathclyde)	93	2369	75	1534	117	3631
Police Scotland (Tayside)	56	887.5	45	865.5	44	1129
Total	176	3638	171	3582	184	5192.5



MULTI DAY AND MULTI TEAM INCIDENTS

Protracted incidents can extend over a number of days and involve several teams

Extended incidents:

	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	UP TO DAY 19
Occurrences	15	7	2	2	1

Multiple Teams working together:

	2 TEAMS	3 TEAMS	4 TEAMS
Instances	146	24	2

LOCATION OF INCIDENTS WITHIN POLICE SCOTLAND DIVISIONS

POLICE DIVISION	YEAR 2017	YEAR 2016
A - Aberdeen	1	0
B - Aberdeenshire and Moray	28	32
C - Forth Valley	87	75
D - Tayside	45	41
E - Edinburgh	1	1
G - Glasgow	3	1
J - Lothians & Borders	46	45
K - Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	3	5
L - Argyll & West Dumbartonshire	34	44
N - Highlands & Islands**	128	136
P - Fife	2	3
Q - Lanarkshire	2	0
U - Ayrshire	19	28
V - Dumfries & Galloway	24	26



The Scottish Mountain Rescue (SMR) Incident Statistics and the information therein, excluding logo/s, may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium for research, private study or for internal circulation within an organisation. This is subject to the information being reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as SMR copyright, and the title of the publication specified.

All enquires about the content of this report or any other matter associated with Incident Reporting should be directed to Police Scotland on whose behalf the MR statistical data is held. Any other enquiry relating to Scottish Mountain Rescue should be directed to the General Manager at: info@scottishmountainrescue.org

Volunteering to save lives



Volunteers are the heart of Scottish Mountain Rescue.
They give their all. Please give all you can.

DONATE ONLINE:

Member teams of Scottish Mountain Rescue could not continue without the generosity of supporters and the general public, in a real and practical way your support saves lives.



Any Hour, Any Day, Any Weather...

As well as civilian Mountain Rescue Teams, SMR represent members of: Scottish Cave Rescue, Search and Rescue Dogs Association and Police Scotland.

- Aberdeen MRT
 - Arran MRT
 - Arrochar MRT
 - Assynt MRT
 - Borders SAR Unit
 - Braemar MRT
 - Dundonnell MRT
 - Galloway MRT
 - Glenelg MRT
 - Glenmore Lodge MRT
 - Hebrides MRT
 - Killin MRT
 - Kintail MRT
 - Lomond MRT
 - Moffat MRT
 - Oban MRT
 - Ochils MRT
 - SARDA (Scotland)
 - SARDA (Southern Scotland)
 - Scottish Cave Rescue Organisation
 - Skye MRT
 - Torridon MRT
 - Tweed Valley MRT
-
- Police Scotland (Grampian) MRT
 - Police Scotland (Strathclyde) MRT
 - Police Scotland (Tayside) MRT
 - RAF Lossiemouth MRT

scottishmountainrescue.org



Scottish Mountain Rescue

Glenmore
Aviemore
Inverness-shire
PH22 1QZ

info@scottishmountainrescue.org
01479 861 373

 @ScottishMR

 @scottishmountainrescue

Any Hour, Any Day, Any Weather...