



SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Annual Statistical Report 2016

Volunteering to save lives

This Annual Statistical Report is a supplement to the Scottish Mountain Rescue Review 2016.

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

scottishmountainrescue.org



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

Scottish Mountain Rescue is the community of 23 civilian member Mountain Rescue Teams (including one Cave Rescue Organisation) spread across Scotland.

The teams deliver a world class Search And Rescue (SAR) Service and respond to requests from Police Scotland. They provide assistance to people in the outdoors. They are made up of approximately 850 volunteers, every one ready and willing to drop what they are doing, leave their beds, abandon their work or walk out of social events to assist total strangers.

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.



Damon Powell, Chairman SMR





A TRUE STORY...

A day in the life of Scottish Mountain Rescue

Saturday August 6th 2016

On this one day:

10 teams are activated and 45 mountain rescue team members are deployed.

160 hours of time volunteered to assist 12 people

Skye MRT

On Skye, the Mountain Rescue Team are informed of an overdue climbing party on the Cioch. Skye MRT is put on standby. The climbers appear by 17:00 and it turns out to be a misunderstanding about their return time.

15:30

Arran MRT

At exactly the same time, 100 miles to the south, Arran MRT are called out to a woman with a head injury on Goat Fell. Using the team all terrain vehicle, she is picked up and carried to a waiting ambulance.



Coastguard SAR Police Scotland (Tayside) MRT SARDA (Scotland)

As these incidents are closing, across in the East, a group of 4 hill walkers contact Dundee Police area control room. They are lost on Ben Chonzie in Perthshire, soaked to the skin but unhurt. Police Scotland decide to activate MRT's, search dogs and a helicopter which lifts off from Inverness soon after. Using a dedicated phone app, the groups' location is plotted and rescuers deployed.

Ochils MRT SARDA (Southern)

In the Ochils a man does not return from a walk in the Alva Glen, Ochils MRT are called out at 18:30 and carry out a search of the area.

Braemar MRT Police Scotland (Grampian) MRT

At 10:00 Police Scotland receive a call from two walkers disorientated in the Eastern Cairngorms. A helicopter is requested and MRT members from Braemar and Police Scotland start to make their way by vehicle and foot towards them.

22:00

Lomond MRT

In the Campsie fells, to the north of Glasgow a mountain biker is struggling with the conditions and requests help. Lomond MRT is called out at 10:30.



Coastguard SAR Police Scotland (Tayside) MRT SARDA (Scotland)

On Ben Chonzie the party were found at a location plotted by the MRT, picked up by the Coastguard helicopter and returned to their vehicles. The MRT walk off the hill. The helicopter returns to Inverness and is called to the Eastern Cairngorms an hour later where it successfully locates and retrieves the disorientated walkers.

Ochils MRT SARDA (Southern)

In the Alva Glen the missing person is found safe and well by the local police.

Lomond MRT

In the Campsies, the mountain biker is found by Lomond MRT cold, wet and hungry having underestimated his route. After food, warm drink and extra clothing, he is walked off the hill. The Team get home and all the rescues of the day were finished by 03:00 on the Sunday morning.

03:00





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

In Scotland, there are 23 civilian Mountain Rescue Teams, 3 Police Scotland MRT and 1 RAF Team. This report reflects the information received from 26 of the member teams of Scottish Mountain Rescue.

The annual report covers the calendar year from January 1st to December 31st 2016

The full list of affiliated teams along with their contact details can be found on our website.

scottishmountainrescue.org

- 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

Note:

Sadly, early in 2016 four mountain rescue teams who were members of Scottish Mountain Rescue felt that they could better represent their members' interest from outside SMR. Whilst we disagree with that view we wish them well and will continue to work with them to ensure no one needing help will notice the change.

This report does not include incidents from non-member teams, the exception is where the SMR teams have assisted these teams. Due to this, unfortunately, direct comparisons can not be drawn with previous annual statistical reports from SMR.



INCIDENTS, CALL-OUTS AND HOURS:



INCIDENTS

An incident is defined as a single event that requires the services of a Mountain Rescue Team. The resolution of this incident may need several call outs of a Team (or Teams) for example during a prolonged search.

436

Total number of incidents in 2016.

235 involved the sport of mountaineering



54%

201 were non-mountaineering incidents



46%

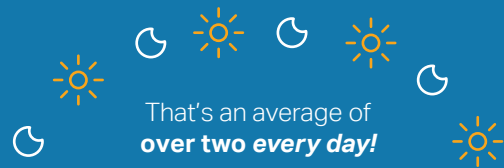


CALL-OUTS

Including giving advice, stand-by's and multi day missions...

733

Recorded number of activations in 2016.



That's an average of **over two every day!**



HOURS

Mountain Rescue Volunteers give their time during call-outs.

22,697

Hours volunteered in 2016.

Note: See Team breakdown for further details.

That's the equivalent of one person working **OVER 472** consecutive **48** hour weeks ...

Voluntarily



PEOPLE HELPED

"Volunteering to save lives"

People helped between January 1st and December 31st 2016

627

People were assisted



Also rescued were **19** dogs and several 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
Rescue - the subject is at a known location and requires assistance	158
Search and Rescue - the subject is unsure of their location and requires assistance	108
Search - little information exists to locate the subject	104
Police Investigation	14
False alarm	10
Body recovery	9
Technical Rescue - Steep ground ropework is needed to access, treat or evacuate the subject	7
Other	7
Search (water)- little information exists to locate the subject next to, or in, water	6
Animal Rescue	6
Civil Resilience- response to natural or man made disasters	4
Water Rescue-the subject requires assistance in a water environment at a known location	3



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



235 incidents involved mountaineers

Mountaineering incidents by activity:

ACTIVITY	HILLWALKING (SUMMER)	HILLWALKING (WINTER)	ROCK CLIMBING	SCRAMBLING	SNOW/ICE CLIMBING	MRT ACTIVITY
NUMBER	173	41	9	4	6	2
%	74%	17%	4%	2%	3%	1%



395 mountaineers were assisted

TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	UNSPECIFIED
395	205	124	66

Primary Cause of mountaineering incidents:

CAUSE	NO.	CAUSE	NO.
Slip/Trip	72	Exhaustion	2
Lost	38	Missing equipment	2
Overdue	31	Technology reliance	2
Cragfast	24	Avalanche-natural	1
Nav Error	14	Flooding	1
Fall	13	Hoax call	1
Separated	10	Over extended	1
Benighted	8	PLB activation	1
Medical Emergency	7	Rockfall	1
Other	5	Weatherbound	1

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

Lost and navigational errors combined are the second most prevalent cause.

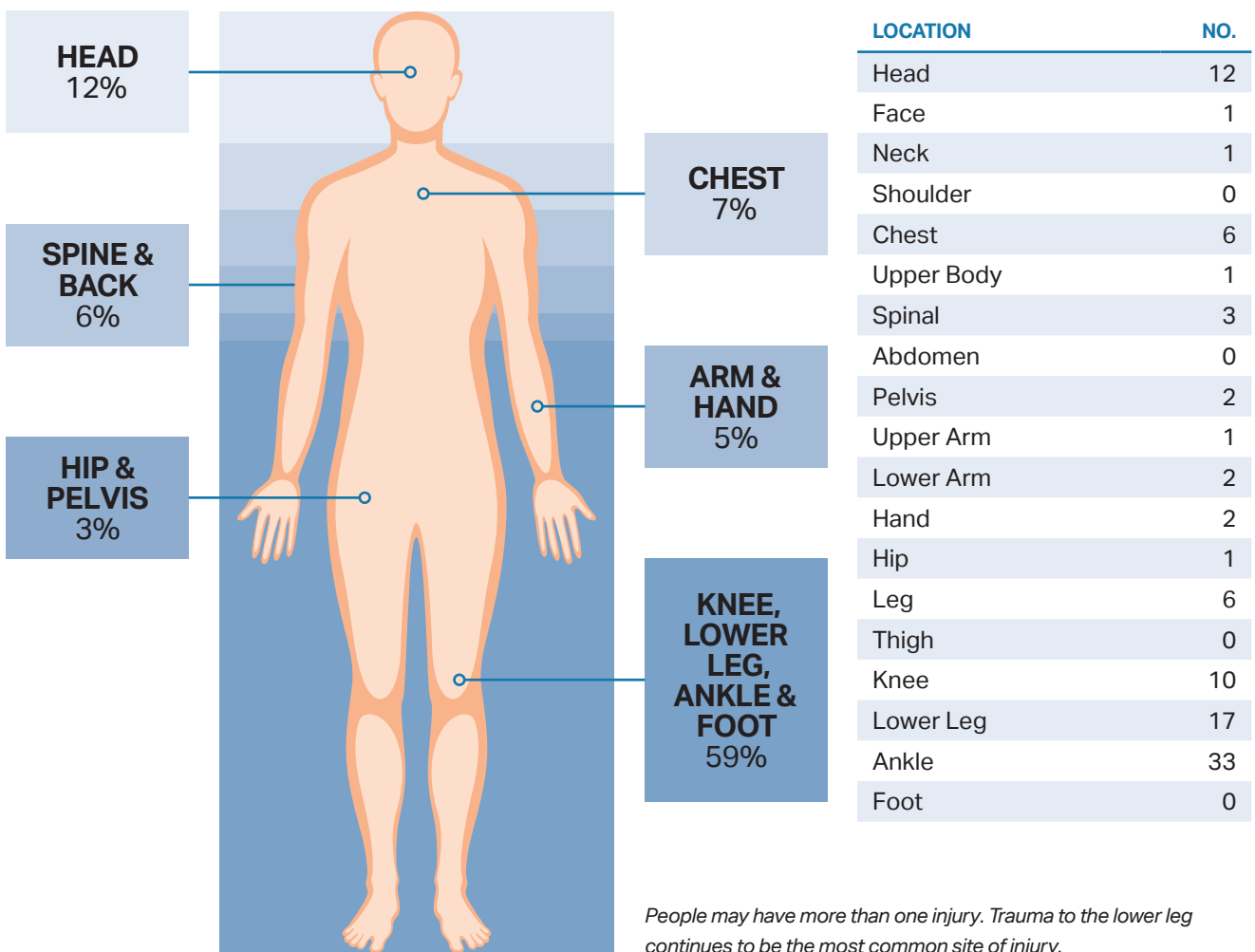


INCIDENTS CONTINUED

INJURY TYPE	NO.	INJURY TYPE	NO.
Uninjured	256	Multiple	6
Fracture/Dislocation	41	Illness	5
Unknown	29	Bruising	2
Sprains	14	Exhaustion	2
Minor	10	Internal	2
Fatal	9	Pain	2
Other	9	Dizziness	1
Hypothermia	7		

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 below.

Injury Site:





DEMOGRAPHICS OF MOUNTAINEERS



Nationality was recorded for **275** mountaineers

NATIONALITY	NO.	NATIONALITY	NO.
United Kingdom	212	Belgium	2
Germany	14	Spain	1
Malaysia	10	Norway	1
France	7	New Zealand	1
USA	6	Italy	1
Netherlands	6	Denmark	1
Poland	4	Colombia	1
Australia	4	China	1
Czech Republic	2	Canada	1

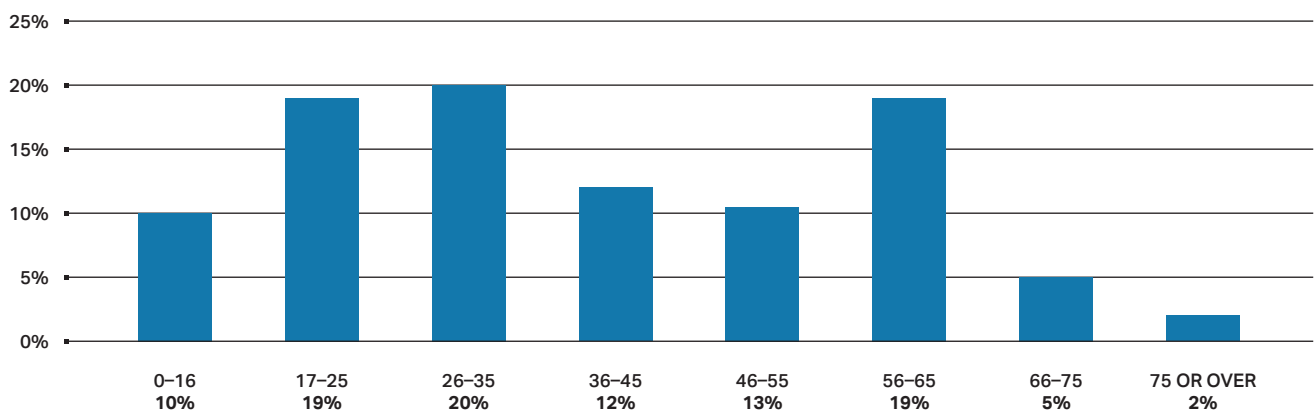
Where a mountaineer is from one of the home nations of the United Kingdom.

HOME NATIONS	NO.
Scotland	136
England	32
Wales	0
Northern Ireland	0
Not Recorded	44

AGE RANGE



Ages were recorded for **242** 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 changed, and with it the capabilities of the MRT's to respond to these needs. Throughout 2016, Teams have continued to respond to a wide variety of calls for help and their activity is recorded in this section.



201 incidents supporting the community

Incidents by activity :

ACTIVITY	NO.	ACTIVITY	NO.
Missing Person	46	Police Investigation	3
Rural Walking	40	Airsports/Aircraft	2
Other	24	Canoe/Kayak/Raft	2
Cycling	20	Duke of Edinburgh	2
Self Harm	18	Motor Vehicle	2
Running	12	4x4/ATV Driving	1
Animal Rescue	7	Body Recovery	1
Equestrian	5	Canyoning	1
Working	5	Gorge Walking	1
Fishing	4	Skiing	1
Not Recorded	3	Swimming	1

Primary Causes :

CAUSES	NO.	CAUSES	NO.
Reported Missing	60	Sheep Rescue	4
Slip/Trip	25	False Alarm	3
Self Harm	17	Benighted	2
Fall from Bike	12	Equipment Failure	2
Medical Emergency	9	Flooding	2
Overdue	9	Vehicle Accident	2
Nav Error	7	Weatherbound	2
Fall	6	Aircraft Crash	1
Unknown	6	Assist Bomb Disposal	1
Cragfast	5	Missing Equipment	1
Fall from Horse	5	River Crossing	1
Lost	4	Other	11
Separated	4		

Teams are asked to respond to a wide variety of events. The most frequent tasking is in response to a missing person enquiry.



NON-MOUNTAINEERING INCIDENTS – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONTINUED

Injury Type for non-mountaineering incidents:

INJURY	NO.	INJURY	NO.	INJURY	NO.
Uninjured	71	Hypothermia	6	Seizure	2
Fracture	31	Drowning	4	Internal	1
Fatal	20	Sprains	4	Multiple	1
Minor	11	Hyperthermia	3	Unconscious	1
Other	9	Heart	2	Unknown	19
Bruising	8	Pain	2		

JOINT WORKING – ALL INCIDENT TYPES

Both on the mountains and in the community, Mountain Rescue Teams worked closely with a number of partner agencies.

AGENCY	NO.
Scottish Ambulance Service	69
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	26
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	18
Loch Lomond Rescue Boat	5
MOD Police launch	1
Navy Bomb Disposal	1
Glenshee Ski Patrol	1
Emergency Medical Retrieval Service	1
Tweed Valley Bike Patrol	1
North East Ambulance	1
Northumberland MRS	1
Police Scotland Dive unit	1

They also collaborate with helicopter services across the country.

FLIGHT	NO.
MCA Rescue 951 (Inverness)	64
MCA Rescue 999 (Prestwick)	51
Police	29
MCA Rescue 948 (Stornoway)	18
MOD Police launch	1
SAS Helimed	11
Great North East Air Ambulance	1
MCA Rescue 100 (Stornoway)	1
MCA Rescue 900 (Sumburgh)	1
Rescue 136 (RAF Valley)	1

More than 1 helicopter may attend an incident. Many aircraft had more than one role.



169 Incidents mustered
177 Aircraft attendances

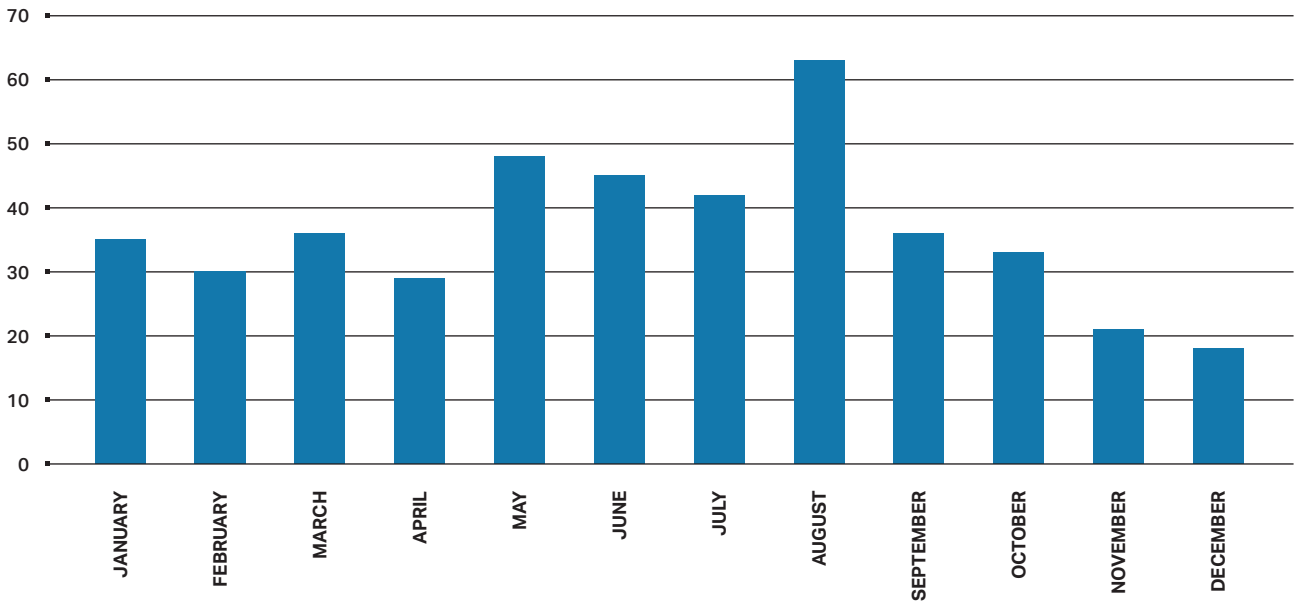
How helicopters were used:

USE	NO.
Evacuation	98
Search	93
Rescue	55
Transport	31



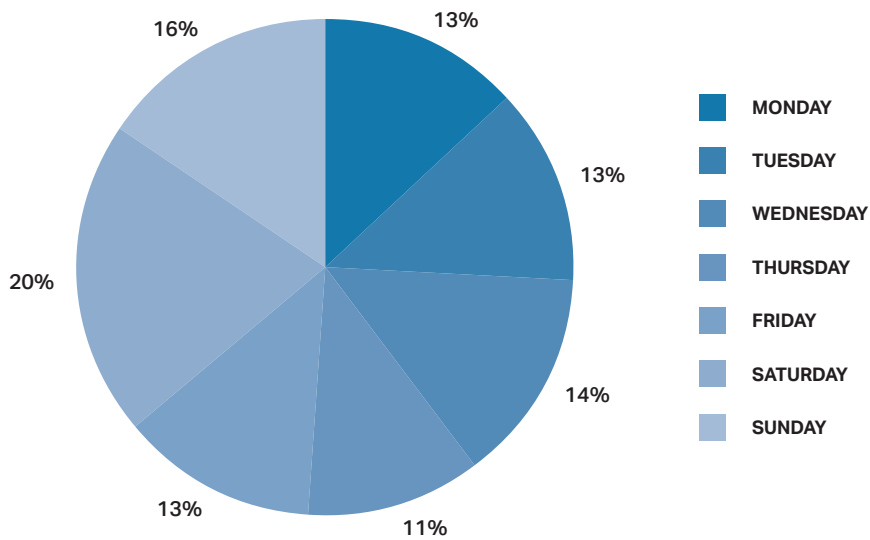
PATTERNS OF INCIDENTS

Distribution of incidents within the year (all incidents):



Note: This is a similar pattern to previous years.

Incidents by day of the week:



*Note: Saturday continues to be the busiest day of the week.



CALLOUTS BY TEAM

Combined for all SMR Teams

Note: In some areas, there is a joint response from two Teams to an incident. The sum of number of callouts is therefore greater than the number of incidents.

AREA	2016		2015	
	CALLOUTS	HOURS	CALLOUTS	HOURS
Aberdeen	20	828.5	6	119
Arran	22	716.8	28	1098.9
Arrochar	24	991.3	25	1368
Assynt	9	198	10	403
Braemar	51	1592	22	625
Borders	24	1090.5	14	850.1
Dundonnell	30	1387.5	35	1953
Galloway	14	433	14	1183
Glenelg	4	80.5	4	98.5
Glenmore Lodge	7	74	1	32
Hebrides	19	715	7	263
Killin	35	1505.5	28	1625.5
Kintail	10	393.5	8	393.5
Lomond	24	1243.7	33	1615.5
Moffat	13	748	19	841.5
Oban	23	1225.7	25	1247
Ochils	19	557.5	26	599.4
Skye	49	1947.5	53	2934.6
Torrison	22	522	25	947
Tweed Valley	32	1519	24	1698
SARDA (Scotland)	63	962.1	78	1864.3
SARDA (Southern)	46	372.5	49	415
Scottish Cave Rescue	2	11	2	6.5
Total	562	19115	536	22181



**Team
Callouts
733**



**Hours
22,697**

Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Teams

TEAM	2016		2015	
	CALLOUTS	HOURS	CALLOUTS	HOURS
Police Scotland (Grampian)	51	1183.2	23	432.5
Police Scotland (Strathclyde)	75	1534	117	3631
Police Scotland (Tayside)	45	865.5	44	1129
Total	171	3582	184	5192.5
TOTALS	733	22697	720	22373



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	DAY 6	DAY 7	UP TO DAY 30
Occurrences	18	7	5	4	4	3	1

Multiple Teams working together:

	2 TEAMS	3 TEAMS	4 TEAMS	5 TEAMS	6 TEAMS	7 TEAMS
Instances	163	28	3	2	1	1

LOCATION OF INCIDENTS WITHIN POLICE SCOTLAND DIVISIONS

Location of incidents by Police division

POLICE DIVISION	YEAR 2016	YEAR 2015	YEAR 2014
A – Aberdeen	0	1	0
B – Aberdeenshire & Moray	32	20	33
C – Forth Valley	75	67	52
D – Tayside	41	34	35
E – Edinburgh	1	1	10
G – Glasgow	1	2	2
J – Lothians & Borders	45	30	32
K – Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	5	0	0
L – Argyll & West Dumbartonshire	44	48	29
N – Highlands & Islands *	136	305	286
P – Fife	3	3	1
Q – Lanarkshire	0	7	2
U – Ayrshire	28	30	25
V – Dumfries & Galloway	26	31	25

*Note: The large drop in the "N-Highlands and Islands" figures are due to the absence of the figures from some teams in that area.

Volunteering to save lives



Volunteers are the heart of Scottish Mountain Rescue.

They couldn't do what they do without financial support
from people like you.

They give their all.
Please give all you can.



Donate online:

scottishmountainrescue.org/donate

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.



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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

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

The full list of affiliated teams along with their contact details can be found on our website.

scottishmountainrescue.org

- [Aberdeen MRT](#)
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 - [Kintail MRT](#)
 - [Lomond MRT](#)
 - [Moffat MRT](#)
 - [Oban MRT](#)
 - [Ochils MRT](#)
 - [SARDA \(Scotland\)](#)
 - [SARDA \(Southern Scotland\)](#)
 - [Scottish Cave Rescue Organisation](#)
 - [Skye MRT](#)
 - [Torrison MRT](#)
 - [Tweed Valley MRT](#)
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- [Police Scotland \(Grampian\) MRT](#)
 - [Police Scotland \(Strathclyde\) MRT](#)
 - [Police Scotland \(Tayside\) MRT](#)
 - [RAF Lossiemouth MRT](#)



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@ScottishMountainRescue

Any Hour, Any Day, Any Weather...