Annual Report 2014

Compiled by Mark Leyland
Graphic Layout Dave Cawthorn

Contents

St John Scotland

safer scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Annual Statistical Report 2014

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projectmanager@mountainrescuescotland.
org
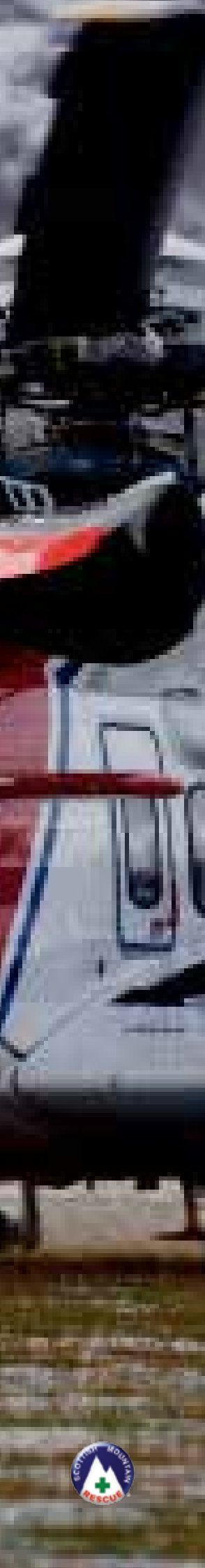
Introduction

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 Team is an autonomous organisation who then can submit their reports to the Statistician of Scottish Mountain Rescue, the representative body for Mountain Rescue in Scotland. The information contained within this report is a collation of the Team returns and can be taken as a summary of the Operational responses of the volunteer and professional teams which operate throughout Scotland.

This annual report covers the calendar year 2014 from January 1st to December 31st.

For this complete year, the reports were submitted via an emailed spreadsheet.

For brevity, throughout the report, persons are referred to as "casualties". This encompasses all persons assisted even those who were un-injured.

Summary

1) There was a total of 533 separate incidents in 2014 to which the volunteer Mountain Rescue Teams, Search and Rescue Dogs and Scottish Cave Rescue were called.
2) Volunteers contributed 21 937 hours of their time during these operations.
3) A minimum of 655 people were assisted.
4) The greatest number of callouts occurred within the Highlands and Islands division of Police Scotland
5) The activity with the greatest number of casualties were participating in was Hillwalking in Summer conditions.
6) Most accidents are caused by a simple slip or trip.
7) Injuries to the lower leg remain the most common.
8) The number of fatalities has significantly reduced on previous years, 26 for the period, compared to 55 in 2013 and 62 in 2012
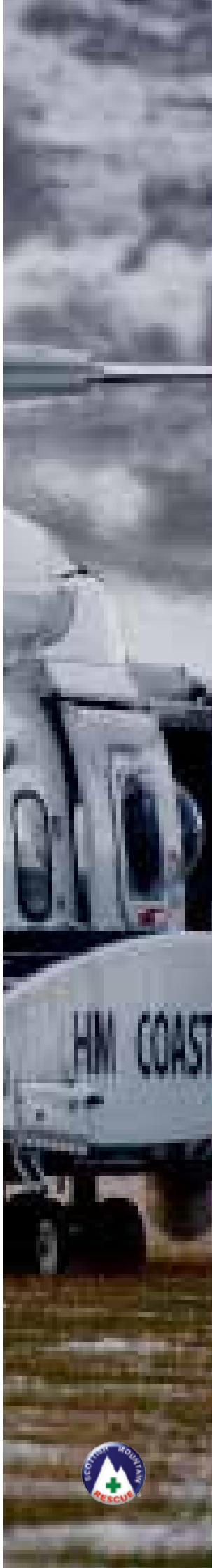
Overall Statistics

The total number of incidents

The summary data for 2001-2014 is shown below

Table 1: Number of incidents

Year	Mountaineering	Non-Mountaineering	Not specified	Total
2014	273	176	104	533
2013	347	239		586
2012	381	162		543
2011	413	151		573
2010	340	194		534
2009	402	172		574
2008	387	188		575
2007	333	145		478
2006	315	119		434
2005	321	137		458
2004	308	90		398
2003	289	101		390
2002	258	81		339
2001	347	65		412

Chart 1: Incidents summary 2001-2014
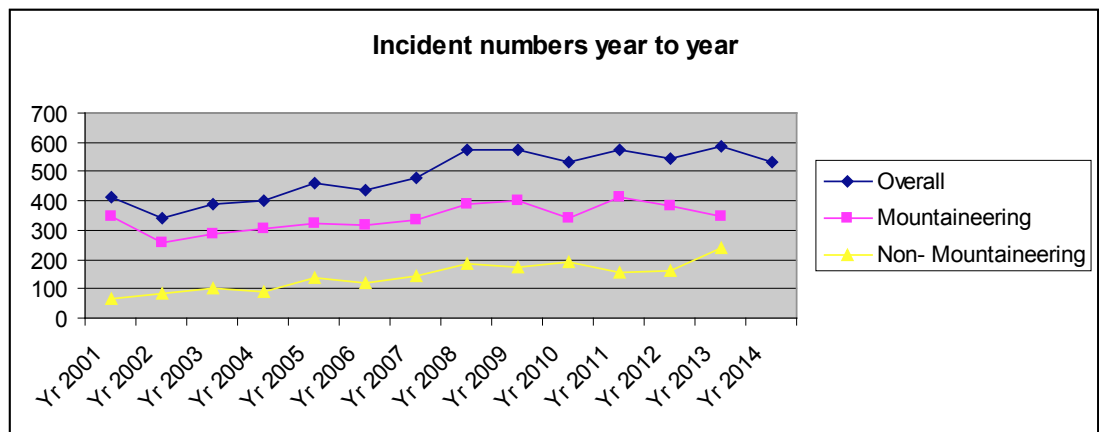
There has been a general increase in the number of incidents over the last 14 years although the balance between Mountaineering and Non-Mountaineering is variable year to year.

Persons Assisted

Data is currently unavailable for 48 of 533 incidents*

For comparison, the missing data is assumed to be 1 per incident, the most common*

(Table 8)

Table 2: Persons assisted

Year	Total
2014	655*
2013	721
2012	720
2011	684

The number of persons assisted appears to have reduced considerably from previous years.

However, due to the absence of some data, this may not be a true figure.

Type of Callout.

Mountain Rescue Teams are asked to respond to a variety of incident types. Where known, this is shown below.

Recorded in 491 of 553 incidents*

Table 3: Type of Callout

Body recovery	16
Civil Resilience	3
False alarm	10
Medical emergency	17
Police Investigation	8
Search	109
Rescue	219
Search and Rescue	97
Search (water)	3
Technical Rescue	4
Water Rescue	1
Animal rescue	4
Not recorded	62

Mountaineering And Non-Mountaineering Incidents.

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

Data is currently unavailable for 104 of 533 incidents *

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

Table 4: Mountaineering incidents by type.

	2014*	2013	2012	2011
Hillwalking -Summer	177 (65%)	212 (61%)	246 (64%)	242 (68%)
Hillwalking- Winter	68 (25%)	88 (25%)	105	61
Rock climbing	8 (3%)	13 (4%)	13	13
Snow/Ice climbing	12 (4%)	28 (8%)	15	33
Scrambling	8 (3%)	5 (1%)	2	4
Mountain Rescue	0	1	0	2

Non-Mountaineering Incidents Reported

Table 5: Non-Mountaineering incidents by type

Activity	2014	2013	2012
Airsports	0	3	1
4x4/ATV driving	2		
Animal rescue	4	4	-
Body recovery	4	6	10
Canoe/Kayak/Raft	3	1	8
Canyoning	0	3	-
Caving	1		
Civil resilience	1	12	3
Cycling	12	15	16
Equestrian	2		
False Alarm	9		
Fishing	1	1	-
Medevac	0	1	-
Military exercise	0	2	-
Missing person	60	76	41
Motor vehicle	3	3	-
Police investigation	2	1	-
Running	10	8	9
Rural walking	23	37	6
Self harm	15	3	37
Skiing	2	6	3
Snowboarding	1		
Swimming	2		
Working	7	6	9
Other	12	6	39
Not recorded		45	
Total reported	176	239	

Information About Casualties.

During the year 2014, some information about the nature of the illness or injury was recorded in 278 out of 533 incidents.

Table 6: Primary Casualty injury or illness

Illness or Injury	2014	2013
Drowning	1	2
Asphyxia	2	1
Fracture, sprain, dislocation	73	78
Heart	7	6
Heat illness	0	3
Hypothermia	9	17
Internal Injury	2	3
Cuts/Bruising	25	15
Multiple injuries	8	10
Illness ,CVA, seizure, Asthma	1	8
Other	15	34
Fatality	26	55
None	109	118

Site Of Injury.

Table 7: Site of Injury

		2014	2013
Head/Neck		28	21
Arm/shoulder		10	18
Back		3	4
Chest		12	5
Pelvis/Hip		3	5
Internal/Abdomen		0	2
Thigh		3	5
Knee		6	13
Lower leg/Ankle/Foot		74	76

The predominant type and site of injury remains a fracture, dislocation or sprain to the Lower leg. This has been a consistent pattern over the years

Age Of Casualties.

Recorded in 246 of 553 incidents

Table 8: Age range

| Age range | 2014 | | 2013 | 2012 |
	Number recorded	% of recorded	(%)	(%)
0-16	20	8%	8	10
17-25	44	18%	14	15
26-35	28	11%	16	16
36-45	42	17%	13	14
46-55	39	16%	20	20
56-65	34	14%	16	13
66-75	33	13%	13	9
75 or over	6	2%	3	2

Chart 2: Age range of persons assisted
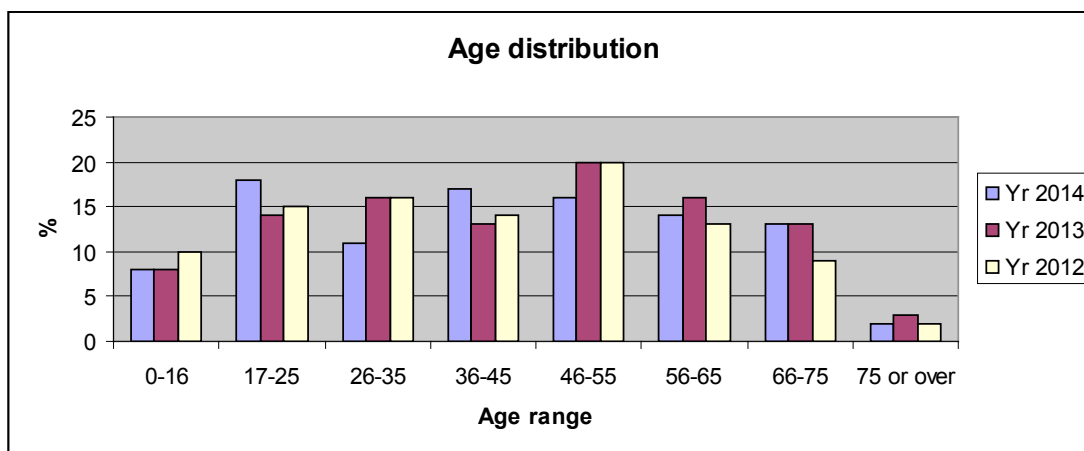
There appears to be a more even distribution across the age ranges than in previous years.

Multiple Casualty Incidents.

Recorded in 436 of 553 incidents

Table 9: Multi Casualty incidents

No of Persons	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
No of incidents	359	61	8	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

The majority of incidents only involved one casualty.

Evacuation Method.

Recorded in 296 out of 533 incidents

Table 10: Method of evacuation

Evacuation method	2014		2013
Self rescue	15	5%	6%
Carry off	53	18%	15%
Walk Off	82	28%	23%
Helicopter	97	33%	38%
None	25	8%	8%
Talk off	9	3%	2%
Other	15	5%	7%

Factors.

It is often difficult to assign a cause which leads to the calling out of a Mountain Rescue Team. If a walker slips on a mountain path, the simple cause is that they slipped. If however, a mountaineer falls a distance on broken terrain, the cause may be a slip, but may be contributed to by a navigation error, darkness or other factors.
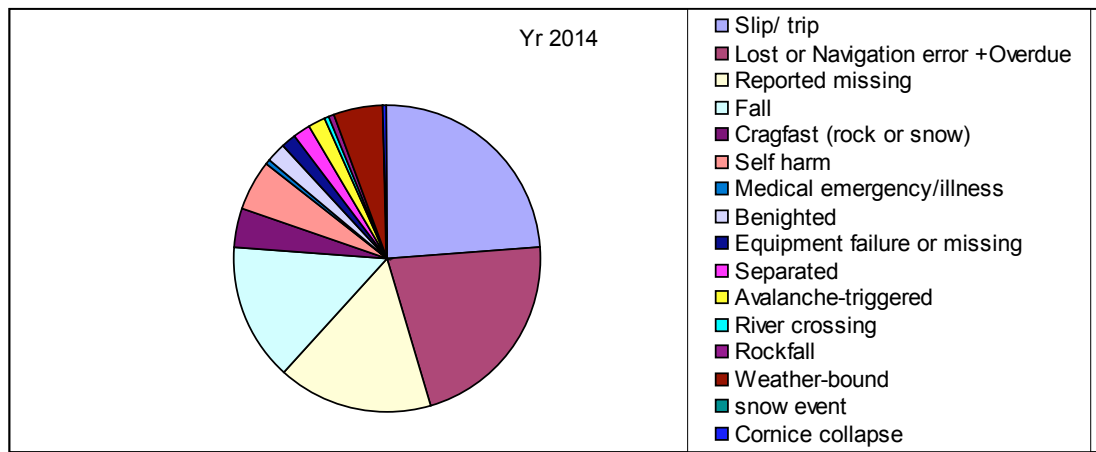In their reports, MRT's identify the main causes where it is known, however there are other factors that may not be identified or recorded.

Table: 11 Factors contributing to Mountain Rescue Callouts

Factor	2014		2013 (%)	2012 (%)
Slip/ trip	64	21.1%	23.4	16.8
Lost or Navigation error	65	15.8%	19.1	20.6
Reported missing	44	14.5%	12.8	18.1
Fall	38	12.5%	11.8	10.5
Overdue	12	4.0%	9.7	11
Cragfast (rock or snow)	12	4.0%	5.9	2.7
Self harm	14	4.6%	4	0
Medical emergency/illness	1	0.3%	3.3	5.4
Benighted	6	2.0%	1.9	3.5
Equipment- failure or missing	4	1.3%	1.9	0
Separated	6	2.0%	1.7	2.6
Avalanche-triggered	4	1.3%	1.2	0
River crossing	2	0.7%	0.9	2.3
Rockfall	1	0.3%	0.7	0.3
Weather-bound	14	4.6%	0.7	0
snow event	0	0	0.7	0
Cornice collapse	1	0.3%	0.2	0.1
Walk over cornice	5	1.7%	-	-
Technology reliance	3	1.0%	-	-
Exhaustion	2	0.7%	-	-
Overstretched	1	0.3%	-	-
Lightning	1	0.3%	-	-
Leg trapped	1	0.3%	-	-
Blown Over	1	0.3%	-	-
Avalanche-natural	1	0.3%	-	-

Chart 3: Factors contributing to Mountain Rescue callouts

Yr 2014

Legend:
- Slip/ trip
- Lost or Navigation error +Overdue
- Reported missing
- Fall
- Cragfast (rock or snow)
- Self harm
- Medical emergency/illness
- Benighted
- Equipment failure or missing
- Separated
- Avalanche-triggered
- River crossing
- Rockfall
- Weather-bound
- snow event
- Cornice collapse

Slips and trips account for the biggest single factor at 21%

However if misplaced persons from the Lost, Navigation errors, Overdue and Missing persons factors are combined, then the total contribute significantly to the reasons for call outs at 34%.

Busiest Times Of The Year.

The volunteer Teams are available to respond to callouts at any time throughout the year.

Table 12: Incidents by month

	2014		2013	2012
		Arrows indicate change from 2013		
January	6.6%	↓	7.2	8.6
Feb	7.5%	↓	11.1	7
March	5.8%	↓	11.3	6.6
April	9.9%	↑	7.3	7.6
May	12.8%	↑	10.1	12.1
June	10.1%	↑	8	10.5
July	12.8%	↑	7.2	9.6
August	11.6%	↑	7.5	8.6
September	10.7%	↓	13	10
October	4.1%	↓	8.7	7.8
November	3.9%	↓	4.1	4.9
December	4.1%	↓	4.6	6.8

Overall the Scottish "summer" is the busiest period for rescue Teams although significant variation occurs from Team to Team due to the significance of winter mountaineering activities in some areas.

Days Of The Week.

Table 13: Incidents by Weekday

2014			2013
Day	No of Incidents	%	%
Monday	63	12%	12
Tuesday	73	14%	13
Wednesday	50	9%	10
Thursday	76	14%	12
Friday	71	13%	10
Saturday	120	23%	24
Sunday	80	15%	19

Incidents can occur on any day of the week but are most common on a Saturday.

Incidents and Hours Per Team.

Scottish Mountain Rescue Teams operate throughout the country in all geographical areas. The Table below documents the total number of times each team was called to assist in the incidents, together with the combined number of person hours (e.g. a call out in which 12 people were deployed for 5 hours yields 60 person hours. It should be noted that these figures in no way include the vast amount of additional time volunteer teams spend training, fundraising, administration etc.

Table 14: Incidents by Team

Team	No. of incidents	Hours deployed
Aberdeen MRT	21	1187.85
Arran MRT	18	458.5
Arrochar MRT	17	532.33
Assynt MRT	6	58
Borders SARU	16	772
Braemar MRT	31	1037.5
Cairngorm MRT	45	1575
Dundonnell MRT	20	767
Galloway MRT	10	294
Glencoe MRT	54	1655
Glenelg MRT	4	30
Glenmore MRT	7	61
HebSAR	8	647.95
Killin MRT	15	677
Kintail MRT	7	219
Lochaber MRT	93	3703
Lomond MRT	22	721.5
Moffat MRT	15	401
Oban MRT	8	434
Ochils MRT	18	722.25
SARDA Scotland	64	1054.06
SARDA Southern Scotland	49	466.5
Scottish Cave Rescue	1	6
Skye MRT	35	1735.5
Tayside MRT	34	670.5
Torridon MRT	20	743.5
Tweed Valley MRT	26	1308
Totals	664	21937.94

Team	No. of incidents	Hours deployed
Police Scotland (Grampian) MRT	37	1128.5
Police Scotland (Strathclyde) MRT	59	1259.5
Police Scotland (Tayside) MRT	35	596
Totals	131	2984

Incidents by Geographical Police Area.

Table 15: Incidents by Police Scotland area

Police Division	Number of incidents
A - Aberdeen	0
B - Aberdeenshire and Moray	33
C - Forth Valley	52
D - Tayside	35
E - Edinburgh	10
G - Glasgow	2
J - Lothians & Borders	32
K - Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	0
L - Argyll & West Dumbartonshire	29
N - Highlands & Islands	286
P - Fife	1
Q - Lanarkshire	2
U - Ayrshire	25
V - Dumfries & Galloway	25

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