British Cave Rescue Council

The representative body for voluntary underground rescue in the British Isles

Incident Report
Supporting Explanatory Notes

Incident Statistics Table

This table reports the incident counts reported by the teams. The top half of the table holds the underground rescue statistics describing:

- The number of cave/mine rescues that the each team was called to during the period. An incident is recorded if the team took operation action. This involves as a minimum deploying some team members to the site of the incident, even if the team was stood down on route.
- The number of incidents that each team was called to in support of the statutory authorities (police, fire, ambulance). These incidents will have involved some use of the expertise of the team underground, for example searching mine workings or culverts.
- The 'persons assisted' is the number of people reported to have received assistance during the rescue operations.
- The 'fatalities' reports how many casualties were fatal during the period. This will include those of the 'assisting authorities' category where the team dealt with the body.
- 'Persons Injured' is the number of injured casualties that a team looked after during the period. This figure excludes those who were hypothermic or exhausted.
- 'Helicopter Assisted' counts the incidents where a helicopter was called to evacuate a casualty, with the superscripted value being the number of calls deploying a RAF/Coastguard helicopter.
- 'Animal Incidents' is the count of underground incidents where a team was called to rescue or recover animals.
- 'Assistance to Other Teams' shows the number of times a team was called to assist other teams on a rescue. The incident counts do not include these in the totals, that is there will be no double counting in the totals.

The bottom half holds the count of surface incidents handled by the teams. The counts here are those provided by the teams in their raw format. There is no checking of the consistency of these. These incidents should also have been reported to Mountain Rescue England and Wales and included in their statistics.

Incident Statistics Supporting Notes

The supporting notes provide a summary of the above.

There may also be additional supporting notes from time to time if events require that further details be added to the report.

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Incident Report Summary

1. This reports the fatalities and refers the reader to the Incident Number in the *Summary of Incidents* table. Additional notes may also be provided if necessary.
2. This identifies the incidents in which teams were called to assist the authorities in the execution of their duty.
3. The tables here provide an analysis of the rescues over the past 5 years. The first table provides details of the Incident Causes whilst the second records the Injuries suffered by the casualties.
4. This provides a summary of the animal incidents reported.
5. In some reports, a summary of the number of rescue hours and volunteer counts is provided. This is necessarily an approximation.

A table at the end of this section provides an abbreviation of the team names used in the Summary of Incidents section.

Summary of Incidents

This lists the Underground Incidents handled by the teams during the period reported.

The format of each report is:

1. **Date** by **Team** at **Start Time** (for **Duration**) (**Number of team members**)
   Cave Location, Rescue Type
   Rescue Narrative.

Where:

- **Date** is the date a rescue commenced; for rescue carrying on over a number of days, this will be the first day. In principle, a rescue will not be recorded as multiple incidents even if handled over a number of days that may not be continuous.
- **Team** is the abbreviated team name from the table in the Summary Page.
- **Start Time** is the time of day at which the team was called. It is not the time of any accident etc, neither is it the time the incident may have been reported to the police.
- **Duration** is the length of time the rescue took. It will not normally include the follow-up time to clean and pack equipment, time for debriefs etc.
- **Number of Team Members** is as you might expect, the number of rescue personnel attending the incident.
- **Cave Location** is the location of the incident. From the cavers point of view it will be the known name for a cave or system. In other cases it might be a location or area, for example when assisting the authorities.
- **Rescue Type** is the type of incident being handled and will be one of:
  - assist authorities in the execution of their duty
  - cave diving
  - equipment failure
  - exposure/exhausted (includes Hypothermic)
  - falls of all kinds
  - flooding

- o hung up, where a caver has become stranded while trying to descend or ascend a vertical pitch or climb
  - o light failure
  - o lost or overdue
  - o marooned
  - o medical emergency such as heart attacks etc.
  - o missing person
  - o other; sometimes a further explanation will be included
  - o physically stuck
  - o rock fall
  - o self-marooning; this can be where a party is abseiling through a cave and coming out at another entrance, but goes the wrong way .
  - o unable to climb, often where a caver is too exhausted to climb a pitch
- **Narrative** is the description of the problem and the action taken.

for example

2. **Sunday 4 April by NWCRO at 07:04 (for 6.00) (7 team members)**
   Horseshoe Pass Quarries, Llangollen, Denbighshire, assist police
   Police identified abandoned car adjacent to quarries linked to a potential suicide threat by an individual; surface search initiated by North East Wales Search & Rescue, who requested NWCRO assistance; underground slate quarry workings searched by NWCRO; person not found (later found by Police in Cheshire).

End