



Irish Mountain Rescue Association

Incident Statistic Report – 2006

Member Teams:
Donegal
Dublin & Wicklow
Galway
Glen of Imaal
Kerry
Mayo
Mourne
North West
SARDA
Sligo/Leitrim
South East
Tramore Sea & Cliff

Co-operating Agencies:
An Garda Síochána
P.S.N.I.
Air Corps
Irish Coast Guard
NI Coast Guard
R.A.F.
H.S.E.
Fire Service
Duchás
Irish Army
Civil Defence

ONLINE:
www.mountainrescue.ie

TYPE OF INCIDENTS AND TIME INVESTED

The 12 teams in the Irish Mountain Rescue Association reported involvement in 229 separate incidents in 2006. The table below shows the number of incidents each team was involved in, allowing for incidents where more than one team was involved.

Team Involvement in Incidents

| | N |
|---------------------|------------|
| Donegal | 17 |
| Dublin & Wicklow | 50 |
| Galway | 8 |
| Glen of Imaal | 37 |
| Kerry | 20 |
| Mayo | 29 |
| Mourne | 17 |
| North West | 29 |
| SARDA | 15 |
| Sligo/Leitrim | 11 |
| South East | 16 |
| Tramore Sea & Cliff | 13 |
| Total | 262 |

Data regarding the number of IMRA hours was available for 189 incidents - a total of 8,375 person hours, the equivalent of almost 1,047 working days, were invested by teams to deal with these incidents in 2005. This compares to 1,135 in 2005 and 2,652 in 2004 (due to a number of long searches).

Other organisations and services assisted in approximately 54% of incidents – this has ranged from 50-64% since 2001.

Incidents included searches (51%), rescues (43%), and requested standby/assistance for organized events (6%).

Excluding standbys, which are previously arranged with the requesting group, 63% of callouts came through the Gardaí/PSNI.

Source of Callout

| | % |
|------------------------------|----|
| Gardai/PSNI | 65 |
| Other Team/Organisation | 18 |
| Direct from casualty | 5 |
| On Site/Came across incident | 4 |
| Member of the public | 2 |
| Friend/Family | 1 |
| Other | 5 |

Consistently, summer and autumn appear as the busiest times - summer (32%) was busier than autumn (25.8%) in 2006 with the winter season only marginally less (23.5%). As in every other year, over half of all incidents occur at weekends (53% in 2006) – 33.5% on Sundays and 19.5% on Saturdays 2006.

Information on the number of people assisted was recorded for 195 incidents in which, 350 people were directly assisted by mountain rescue personnel; 130 of these were injured, 10 fatally. The proportion of those assisted who were injured (37%) is slightly higher than in previous years (2005: 26%; 2004: 29%).

Where injuries were noted, lower limb injuries were most often noted (38%), followed by medical problems (17%) and upper limb injuries (10%). In addition, there were three cases of serious multiple injuries and two with head/spinal injuries. Eleven cases of hypothermia were treated, three of whom also had other injuries.

For searches, the distance between the point where the individual was located and the point they were last seen was recorded for 42% of cases; the mean was 9.4km (median 2km; range 0-110 km).

Teams conducted 36 stretcher evacuations ranging in distance from 0.3km to 6km – the average being 2.4km. Evacuation by helicopter took place in 34 cases.