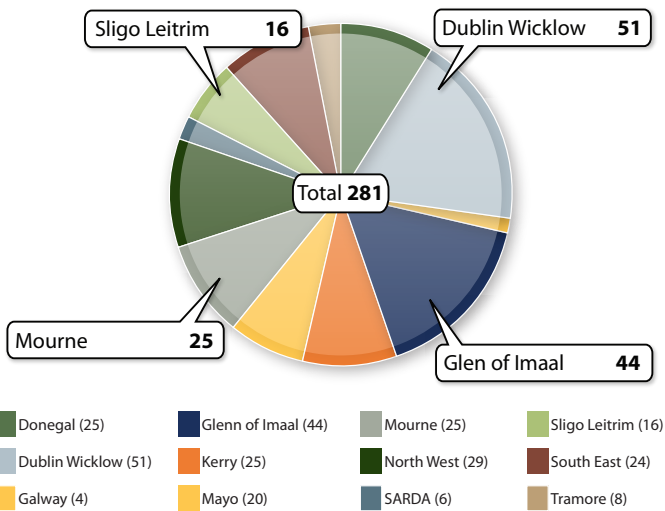


Incident Statistics Report – 2008

The 12 Teams of the Irish Mountain Rescue Association (IMRA) reported involvement in 214 separate incidents in 2008. This compares with 201 in 2007, 229 in 2006, 279 in 2005 and 176 in 2004. The table below shows the number of incidents each team was involved in.

A total of 281 returns were made which refer to 214 separate incidents, allowing for incidents where more than one team was involved. Data regarding the number of IMRA hours on 214 incidents was available. A total of 14,200 person-hours or the equivalent of almost 1,775 working days were involved by teams dealing with these incidents in 2008.



IMRA Teams responded in 2008 to search incidents (42%); rescues (42%) and provided requested standby/assistance for organised events (16%). Excluding standbys, which are previously arranged with the requesting group, 58% of callouts came through the 112/999 system, via the Gardai, the PSNI, or the Irish or HM Coast Guards. Another third of all calls to MR Teams emanated from members of the public out on the hills either suffering a calamity or present at/coming across an incident, or from the organisers of mountain events; while 10% of calls to MR Teams in 2008 were from other mountain rescue teams and occasionally wildlife rangers seeking additional support or assistance.

Irish mountain rescue teams mobilised during 2008 in response to 63 reports of persons reported injured; 88 incidents where persons reported missing, lost or overdue; 11 sightings of flares, reported falls or shouts for help heard; 8 times to assist landowners recover lost and injured animals and 7 times to rescue crashed or stranded motorists and once to search for and recover the occupants of a crashed aircraft (Wicklow, Oct '08). MR Teams were deployed onto operation on 36 other occasions to provide an on-scene mountain emergency service presence in support of a range of community and tourist activities in the mountains, such as the annual pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo on the last Sunday of July.

Summer 2008 was almost twice as busy (79 incidents) as the other three seasons, but the other nine months of 2008 were consistently busy, with the number of incidents per month varying between 11 & 20 reflecting the year-round enjoyment of Irish mountains. Two thirds of all incidents occurred at weekends (Fri, Sat, Sun or Mon) - with 50% more incidents occurring on Sunday when compared to Saturdays - a reversal on the 2007 trend.

Analysis of the 2008 mountain search & rescue operation outcomes indicate that 24% of missing persons turned up or were located outside the search area, while another 4% of those sought were found by other

search & rescue agencies, usually Coast Guard or Civil Defence units. The mean distance between the point where an individual was located and the point they were last seen was 2.2 km (range 0.1 – 12 km; median 2.87 km). Statistics also show that persons searched for were not found in 6.5% of incidents. Incident outcomes record that search & rescue operations located, treated and evacuated 16% of subjects, while 15% were located and evacuated i.e. did not require the treatment for injury. 11% of subjects were treated and then evacuated and just 7.5% of subjects required evacuation only. Outcomes for 16% of incidents were either not recorded or described as 'Other/Not relevant'.

Analysis of Mountain Rescue Incident Outcomes	No.	%
Person turned up or was located by another means	51	24
Located & Treated & Evacuated	34	16
Located & Evacuated	33	15
Treated & Evacuated	23	11
Evacuation only	16	7.5
Nothing found	14	6.5
Non-IMRA team responsible e.g. Civil Defence or Coast Guard	9	4
Not relevant / Unknown / Not recorded	34	16
Total	214	

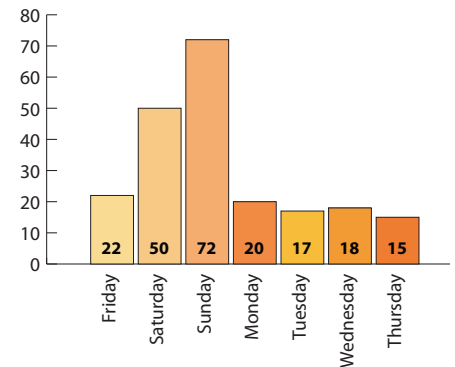
265 uninjured people were assisted directly by mountain rescue teams in 2008 during the 214 incidents where information was recorded. Another 88 people were injured, treated and evacuated to primary medical care and 13 fatalities were handed over to the statutory emergency services. Where injuries were noted, lower limb injuries were most common (39%). However over 20 cases of serious injuries, involving head/spinal, serious multiple injuries, heart attacks and other medical instances were treated and evacuated. In addition, 9 cases of hypothermia were recorded.

Teams recorded 30 stretcher evacuations with an average carry distance of 2.2 km (Distances ranging 0.1 to 4.0 km with a median of 1.7 km). Casualty evacuation by helicopter was recorded in 21 incidents. This figure and team operational statistics reports for 2008 do not record the increasingly effective use that helicopters from various services provide as tactical airlift support to mountain search & rescue operations.

Monthly & Seasonal Analysis

Months	Incidents
Aug	30
June	25
July	24
Nov	20
Dec	19
Mar	16
Sept	15
Feb	14
May	14
Jan	13
Oct	13
Apr	11
Total	214

Summer	79	37%
Autumn	48	22%
Winter	46	21%
Spring	41	19%



IMRA would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of the following agencies in caring for the casualty on the mountain:-

An Garda Síochána, P.S.N.I., Irish Air Corps, R.A.F., Irish Coast Guard, HM Coast Guard, H.S.E., Fire Service, Irish Army, Civil Defence, Irish Red Cross, Order of Malta, Irish Cave Rescue Organisation and the National Park and Wildlife Service.

