



Saving Lives  
in the  
Mountains

24 / 7 / 365

# Annual Report

# 2024



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Any individual or group requiring assistance in the upland and mountainous environs on the island of Ireland will be responded to by volunteers embedded in the local community.

These volunteers are organised into mountain rescue teams and tasked by the police force, A.G.S. within Ireland and the P.S.N.I. in Northern Ireland.

This tasking leads to an emergency response which will search, locate and rescue those seeking assistance and escort them to safety or deliver them to more definitive medical care.

Collectively these teams come together as Mountain Rescue Ireland (M.R.I.) to represent the views of its members on mountain rescue and safety, to represent and liaise on general matters with government, to

propagate information on mountain rescue and safety and take such action as may be necessary to promote a wider appreciation of the need for mountain safety.

M.R.I. is a member of the International Commission of Alpine Rescue (I.C.A.R.) the international body for mountain rescue organisations dedicated to the advancement of best practice in mountain rescue worldwide.

This report reflects back on 2023 and presents the commitment and work of the teams dedicated to responding to those in need.

M.R.I. consists of the following teams:

Donegal MRT

North West MRT

Sligo/Leitrim MRT

Mourne MRT

Mayo MRT

Galway MRT

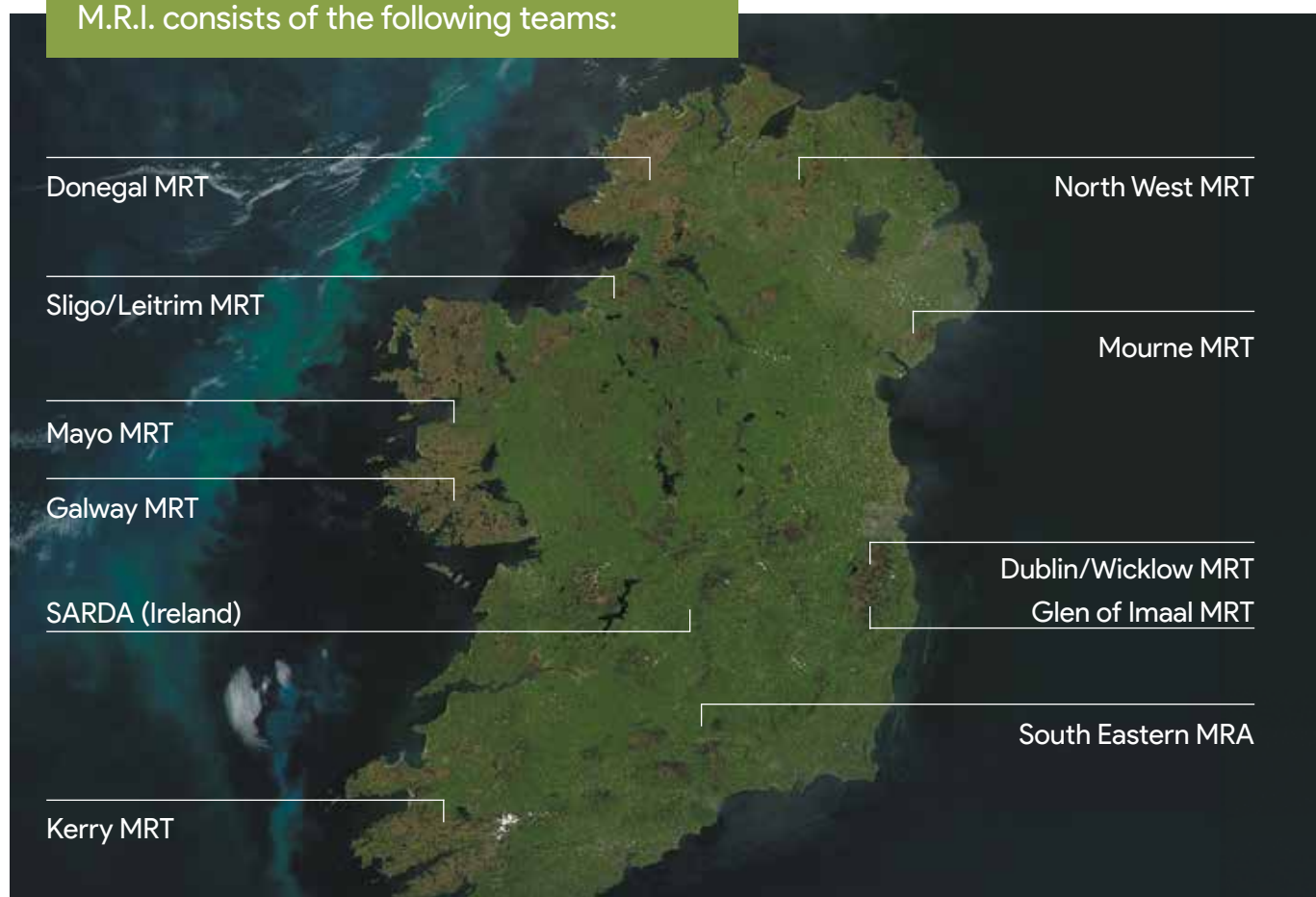
Dublin/Wicklow MRT

SARDA (Ireland)

Glen of Imaal MRT

South Eastern MRA

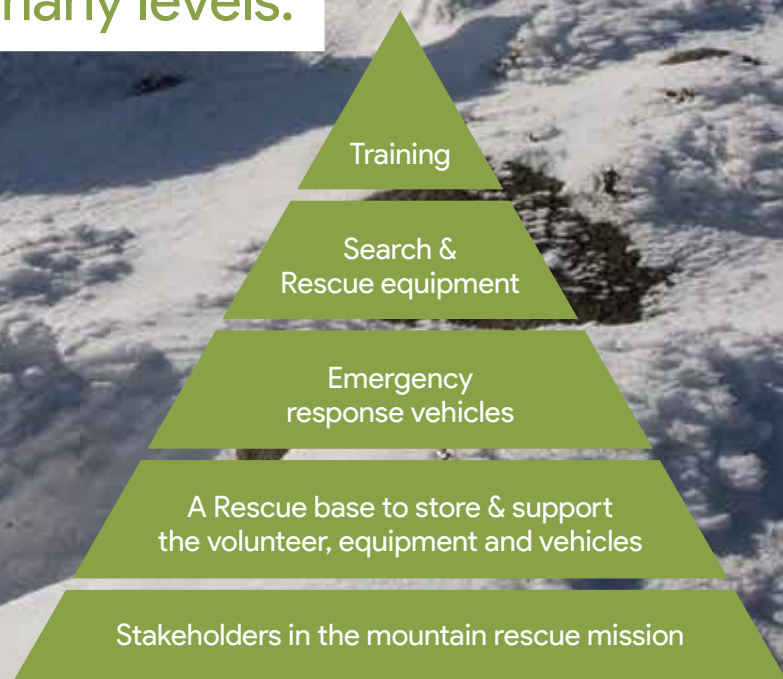
Kerry MRT





Facing into 2025, recognition is needed that saving a life in an upland or mountainous environment requires commitment to the mission at many levels.

For the mountain rescue volunteer to assist the casualty they must be supported by the mountain rescue team in the provision of the following:



The casualty requiring assistance is dependant on all these levels for support, regardless of the casualty being a visitor to or a resident of the island. It is vital that all stakeholders: local councils, government departments and agencies, and other interested parties recognise their place in the mountain rescue mission.

**Saving Lives  
in the  
Mountains**

24 / 7 / 365

[www.mountainrescue.ie](http://www.mountainrescue.ie)

## 2024 ANNUAL STATISTICS

# 253

DAY TIME

# 379

# 126

NIGHT TIME

## TOTAL INCIDENTS

### 72

HELICOPTER TASKINGS

### 10,556

PERSON HOURS

HELP!

999



GARDA / PSNI



Callout Officer



Callout SMS



MOBILE BASE

MOUNTAIN RESCUE BASE

Mountain rescue teams are only possible due to the commitment of the volunteers who dedicate to being on call 24/7/365 to assist those in need

### 58

LOST

### 56

MISSING

### 132

MINOR INJURIES

### 59%

MALE  
(Main Casualty)

### 12

TOTAL NO. FATALITIES

### 17

CRAGFAST

### 48

SERIOUS INJURIES

### 41%

FEMALE  
(Main Casualty)

- 273 of the 379 callouts (72%) were for hikers/climbers
- 306 of the callouts (81%) were located in the mountains
- 2/3 of incidents on the mountain occurred while descending with 1/3 occurred while ascending.
- 34% of injuries were lower leg injuries



\*Mountain rescue teams are tasked to a variety of incidents arising from their wilderness & mountaneous capabilities.

# donate today

[www.mountainrescue.ie/donate](http://www.mountainrescue.ie/donate)

Registered Charity Number: 20026370. CHY (Revenue) Number: 10412

## Saving Lives in the Mountains

24 / 7 / 365



# Donegal Mountain Rescue Team (DMRT)



Donegal Mountain Rescue Team covers the whole of Co. Donegal, with peaks including the iconic Errigal Mountain, Muckish, Slieve League, The Urris Hills as well as the Bluestacks and the Derryveagh Mountain Ranges reaching into the Glenveagh National Park, all of which are popular with tourists and locals alike. In 2024, we responded to 18 callouts, we covered 11 events and conducted 40 exercises, including the MRI Party Leader courses, MRI Rope Courses and the MRI Search and Rescue Management Course, along with the Remote Emergency Care level "3" first aid course.

This year again, we have worked closely with Malin Head Coast Guard and subsequently underwent training with the Rescue Helicopter 118 and the helicopter crew to advance our knowledge and awareness of the processes involved in evacuating a casualty by helicopter.

In January 2024, we completed a very successful recruitment, adding 14 new members to our probationary team, who now will be completing their assessment in the coming weeks. This was our first recruitment drive on this scale for a long time and almost doubled the size of previous intakes, with the dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers ready and willing to learn, with fantastic attendance rates and abilities. We look forward to bringing them on to the team as full members. We now intend to conduct another recruitment drive in the coming month so as to continue to boost our numbers and this will help spread the workload required of the team.

Our Pro has been very proactive this year with Interviews given by our PRO throughout the year on Highland, RTE news, RTE radio and BBC radio, covering callouts, how to be safe on the hill and advice on how to be weather aware, given some of the severe weather conditions the country has faced in the past 12 months. Activity on both traditional and social media platforms seems to have boosted our visibility and the public's awareness of what we do. This seems to have contributed to an increase in public fundraisers and donations to the team, both as gratitude for our work on callouts or simply to support the team. This fundraising has aided our ability to upgrade equipment and resources, as well as purchase a new vehicle and a new stretcher wheel for our Ferno Stretcher, also upgraded

our medical bags along with new winter causality blanket, We also got time to train one of our own team members to EMT level, We also this year again brought in Bren Whelan a outside trainer from Donegal Climbing to bring a different aspect to the training and show us a different way of thinking.

Our goal this year is to have all team members progress their first aid to Remote Emergency Care level "4" first aid.

We look forward to the year ahead with welcoming our new probationary members to the team as full members and hopefully expanding our team further with the new recruitment drive.

We will continue to train hard and attend as many courses as we can, continually advancing our knowledge and capabilities and furthering our knowledge of all aspects of Mountain Rescue.



# Sligo Leitrim Mountain Rescue Team (SLMRT)



## Incidents

During 2024 SLMRT had conducted 11 callouts, including 9 rescues and 2 searches. We have log over 300 hours during these callouts. These callouts saw our team operate with other agencies including other MR Teams, Garda, Irish Coast Guard.

## Training, Events

Training this year comprised of over 33 sessions covering aspect such as medical, rope work, PPE inspection, night navigation, rigging course in Doolin, REC first aid, party leader course, and some joint exercise with other agencies. We also committed to a number of different events as part of our fundraising strategy and public relations. We had one fundraising event which was our annual street bucket collection which takes place over the Halloween bank holiday.

## Vehicles

SLMRT has 2 vehicles in use a 2020 Ford transit which is our incident command unit and a 2015 VW Rockton 4X4 van.

## Members

Currently we have 22 active members and have 4 operational reserve members. over the course of 2024 team members gave up over 2,700 hours of their time to commit to callouts, training and fundraising.

## Team base

The team is currently based within an area vacated by Sligo County council. This has provided us with in a secure facility to keep all vehicles and equipment and also a space to conduct training sessions. We are very grateful for the assistance provided by Sligo County Council.

Sadly, we as a team will never forget 2024 for the tragic loss of our colleague and dear friend Octavius (Ocky) Job who passed away while out doing what he loved out on the hills. He took a bad fall on 2 July 2024 on the slopes of Benbulbin. The team would like to thank Mountain Rescue and the emergency services community in Ireland for their support and comfort over the past few months.





# Mayo Mountain Rescue Team (MMRT)



The Mayo Mountain Rescue Team (MMRT) has had an impactful year, demonstrating unwavering dedication and expertise in responding to emergencies across the county. The team is comprised of 22 full members, 4 aspirant members, and 4 members on sabbatical. MMRT Volunteers ensure swift and effective response to those in need. This year, the team upgraded its response vehicle fleet. With the assistance of an ICAR grant, MMRT replaced the much-loved VW Rockton with a new Toyota Hilux, enhancing its capability to navigate challenging terrains and respond to emergencies effectively.

## Operations & Incidents

In 2024, MMRT responded to 31 callouts, 28 of which occurred on Croagh Patrick, underscoring its status as a popular yet challenging destination. The incidents ranged from 8 lower limb injuries, 7 head injuries, 1 spinal injury, 2 medical emergencies, 1 hypothermia case, 1 cardiac arrest, and 11 instances of fatigue. Volunteers contributed a remarkable total of 752 hours to these operations, showcasing their commitment to the safety of the community. Evacuations were handled with professionalism, including 7 helicopter-assisted rescues completed in collaboration with the Coast Guard, 10 stretcher evacuations, and 14 assisted walk-offs. The collaboration with the Coast Guard proved invaluable, ensuring swift and effective outcomes in critical situations.



## Training & Development

Training remains a cornerstone of MMRT's readiness to tackle complex and varied challenges. Over the past year, the team conducted 20 training events covering essential skills such as medical scenarios, casualty care, casualty evacuation, rope rescue, steep ground and navigation. These activities totaled 55 hours per person. In addition to these core training sessions, team members participated in optional refresher courses, amounting to another 132 hours per person. These included helicopter safety, MRI search management, REC, and rope rescue operator. Specialized training was also a highlight, with six members completing winter skills training in Scotland, and two members completing WEMSI EMT, further enhancing the teams' capabilities to operate in extreme conditions.

## Events & Fundraising

MMRT's involvement in key events demonstrated its commitment to community safety and collaboration. The team continues to organize the national foundation rigging course and the rope rescue operators' course with support from MRI. Furthermore, MMRT hosted the annual Mountain Rescue Ireland (MRI) training weekend, "Reek Sunday," bringing together rescue teams from across the country to share knowledge, hone skills, and ensure pilgrim safety on Ireland's Holy Mountain. These events underscored the importance of collaboration and continuous learning within the mountain rescue community. MMRT were delighted to be nominated by Ireland West Airport (Knock) as one of its registered charities for 2024. Thanks to the people of Mayo and beyond for their kind donations through our website, flag days and church gate collections. Their continuing support ensures our ability to operate.





# Galway Mountain Rescue Team (GMRT)



In 2024, Galway Mountain Rescue completed its transition from an unincorporated association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. While this took considerable effort on the part of our volunteers, it is a vital investment in the long term sustainability of the organisation. With an increased focus on good governance and compliance across the charitable sector, this new structure puts Galway Mountain Rescue on a solid footing for the future.

From an operational perspective, the team responded to 25 incidents in 2024 totalling over 105 hours. Overall, volunteers contributed 6063 person-hours towards running the service.

2024 was a busy year for the members involved in outreach and public relations. Team members visited with several local Scout Groups, Galway Sea Scouts, Local walking clubs, and Foróige. The team participated in the Emergency Services Day

and collaborated with Roz Purcell on her recent book launch in Galway. These events serve to raise the public profile of the team and increase the support the team receives from the wider public.

With the very welcome newly fully operational members the total team membership now stands at 40 members. With a number of retirements in 2024, and the high number of people currently non-operational, we have an operational membership of 28. When those currently non-operational return to operational status in the coming months that number should return to 34.

With our long serving team leader retiring at the end of 2024 and our strategic planning cycle starting anew, Galway Mountain Rescue will be kept busy as it turns 50 years old in 2025.





# Search & Rescue Dog Association (Ireland)



Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) Ireland is a national voluntary SAR organization specialised in the training and deployment of search and rescue dogs. Our dog teams, which consist of the handler and their dog, can be tasked to search for injured or missing persons anywhere in Ireland and are effective in mountains, woodlands, rural and urban areas, waterways and shorelines.

## Team Members

We currently have 13 fully qualified mountain rescue search dog teams, and hope to have up to 3 additional teams qualified in the next year. We had our very first Trailing dog team qualified last year and they are now operational. We have multiple prospective and trainee dog teams and several dedicated dogs body members who assist with training.

## Callouts

Our 12 qualified dog teams responded to 27 callouts in 2024 in counties such as Cork, Dublin, Tipperary, Galway, Kerry, Mayo and Waterford. We have searched in the Galtees, the Macgillycuddy Reeks and the Dublin Mountains to name a few. SARDA Ireland search dog teams have aided in the recovery of several missing persons in 2024, some thankfully alive, whilst some were sadly deceased. Many of these searches were conducted alongside other agencies such as An Garda Síochána, Irish Coast Guard, Civil Defence, National Ambulance Service and Mountain Rescue. Similar to 2023, our main tasking agency in 2024 was An Garda Síochána. SARDA Ireland are being called to increasing numbers of lowland and semi-urban searches and we are glad to be able to provide support throughout the Irish community, regardless of the area or terrain. SARDA dog teams are available to assist all mountain rescue teams throughout the country as required, via SARCALL or by contacting the SARDA Ireland Call Out Coordinator on 087 179 8460.

## Training

Traditionally, our dogs are graded to the 'mountain rescue search dog' standard. These air-scenting dogs can be used to search through large areas very quickly and effectively for human scent. SARDA Ireland are now also training trailing search dogs. Trailing dogs are 'scent-specific' and need a scent article belonging to the missing person. These dogs are trained

to follow a specific scent and to eliminate competing scents, human and otherwise, that do not match the missing persons sent profile. The trailing programme is run with the support of NSARDA, the umbrella group which connects SARDA Ireland to sister teams in the UK.

## Public Interest

We are happy to say that there has always been a large interest from the public to support or get involved with SARDA Ireland. Many have volunteered as 'dogsbody' (those who hide on the hills for our dog teams) and to assist with fundraising.

## Fundraisers

SARDA Ireland carried out 2 fundraising Flag days, Cork in January €6000+ and Limerick in November €3628. We had various people donate online over the various platforms, ie Facebook, idonate, paypal.

We thank all those who assisted SARDA in 2024 and we look ahead to 2025 with a growing team of committed members.





# Kerry Mountain Rescue Team (KMRT)



Kerry Mountain Rescue Team dealt with 36 callouts in 2024, which was a slightly lower number than the past few years. Rescue and training hours were significantly higher than previous years however, mainly due to a couple of protracted search and recovery operations. While most of the callouts were in the summer period, the team was called out in each month of the year. Most of the team callouts in 2024 were to the McGillicuddy's Reeks, with the majority of incidents in and around Corrán Tuathail. There was also a notable increase in callouts on the Dingle peninsula this year including a large-scale search operation on Brandon, and accidents in Glanteenassig, Blennerville and the Conor Pass areas. Lower leg injuries accounted for a large proportion of the incidents, while similar to last year there was a high number of callouts to lost parties also recorded.

It was noted that a large proportion of these lost and cragfast walkers had been using mobile apps for navigation before getting into difficulty. The team issued a warning regarding the use of these apps in the hopes of raising awareness of their unsuitability for mountain navigation. A standout operation this year was the multi-agency search for a missing hillwalker in the Brandon area that lasted over a week in June before the team was stood down. A large search area of steep and complex ground was covered by the team with assistance from other MRTs, Coast Guard ground and heli crews, drone operators and SARDA. We would like to express our gratitude for all of the help we received from rescue teams and emergency response agencies, as well as to the people of Cloghane and Brandon for their support throughout the summer.

A delegation from the team attended the MRIAM in Fermanagh in March and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. Congratulations to NWMRT for hosting a great event. KMRT trained regularly throughout the year, in core areas such as first aid, casualty care and evacuation, 4x4 driving, technical ropework and communications. The team also trained with the Irish coast guard crew Rescue 115 and completed an EFR refresher course with Pat Reid in Nov/Dec. Team numbers remained at 38 by year end, with some new recruits replacing retirees early in the year. We wish to sincerely thank those retirees for their dedication and outstanding service over the years. We welcome our new recruits and look forward to working alongside them

in the years ahead. Our technical and equipment committees continued to seek improvements in how we execute technical casualty extractions and have been engaged with specialist manufacturers to ensure that equipment and systems are not only fit for purpose, but best in class. A new system of belay bags was introduced by the equipment team and worked very well this year. The Petzl maestros, introduced by the team in 2023, saw plenty of action in 2024 in both lowering and hauling operations. 2024 marked the official opening of our newly completed Rescue Base Extension. After a number of years of planning and construction, it was fantastic to invite friends of the team and the public to the opening in September. The new facility has proven to be an invaluable asset since its opening, with the new drying room being of huge benefit after callouts. The meeting room was also the ideal place to hold the EFR refresher course in November and subsequent team meetings.

To the family, friends and colleagues of Octavius 'Ocky' Job from SLMRT, we wish to once again convey our deepest condolences to you following Ocky's tragic passing in July last year. We sincerely hope you can find some solace and healing in the year ahead. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our colleagues in MRI, SARDA, Coastguard, AGS and the Ambulance service a very happy, safe and prosperous 2025.



# North West Mountain Rescue Team (NWMRT)



## Incidents, Exercises and Events

In 2024, the team responded to 16 call-out incidents. In the East of the province, the callouts were again primarily confined to the Slemish Mountain and the Cavehill Divis Mountain areas and in the West of the province, Cuilcagh Mountain, Lough Erne and the Gortin Glen areas.

In general, the callouts for 2024 again have shown a downward trend in number, a trend also experienced and reported by some other SAR teams across the island of Ireland. Meetings and discussions were held with the PSNI as the primary tasking authority to ensure that all relevant taskings were being correctly assigned. The matter will be monitored with further discussions with PSNI proposed in 2025.

In 2024, the team also organised and participated in 27 training exercises and 19 events. Notable incidents and exercises included:

Swift Water Search and Rescue capability – The team recognised the importance of expanding our capabilities in assisting other statutory bodies and voluntary search and rescue organisations. This resulted in the training and equipping 10 members of the team in swift water search and rescue and completing several training exercises throughout the year.

## Team Leadership and Matters

The team recognised 2024 as essentially a year of rebuilding trust and confidence within team members. This was also recognised by MRI who in a welcomed demonstration of support and confidence, proposed that the MRI annual meeting (MRIAM) weekend was to be organised and hosted by the team.

## Membership Standards and Safeguarding

A review was undertaken in early 2024 of membership standards which included a review of requirements including statutory Access NI checks. This resulted in a new comprehensive annual membership application 'pack' which was implemented in advance of the 2024 team AGM in April.

## MRIAM24

The major training / event highlight of the year was the hosting of the Mountain Rescue Ireland Annual Meet in Gortatole over the weekend of 1-3 March. This event saw 31 attendees from 11 MRI / SAR teams from across the island of Ireland attend a series of presentations and talks. Notable presentations were made by renowned guest speakers Hanna Shields (Mountaineer and International athlete) and Timm Fogg (Caver and 'Planet Earth' film rigger).

The event also extended to and included an invitation to equipment and kit suppliers which stimulated some very interesting conversations and exchanges of ideas for the member and teams present. The MRI AGM was also hosted as part of this event and took place immediately following the conclusion of the annual meet programme on Sunday 3 March. This event was regarded as success based on the formal feedback from attendees and MRI.

## Team Officers and Working Groups

The Team Officers and Working Groups remained responsible for the operational management of the aims and objectives of the Charity. This role was fulfilled with clear procedures to guide the operational decision - making process within the team. 2024 saw good progress with the review of the team Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). In addition to the updating of the SOPs onto a new template and Register, new SOPs were developed for Safeguarding and Swift Water Rescue. Working Groups by their name and nature remain key to the operational management and decision making within the team.

The Team Officers comprised of:

Central Section Leader, East Section Leader, West Section Leader, Communications Officer, Equipment Officer, First Aid Officer, Fundraising Officer, PRO Officer, Training Officer and Transport Officer.

Lead Officers were responsible for the establishment of the working groups and arranged for appropriate meetings to identify matters, appraise options and forward agenda items to the Team Officers Meetings for decision. As the team is run by members, all members were encouraged to participate in these Working Groups which remains a challenge for the team to get more engagement from a wider range of Members.





# Mourne Mountain Rescue Team (MMRT)



## Introduction

The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team (MMRT) is a dedicated group of volunteers committed to providing rescue services in the Mourne Mountains and surrounding areas. Our mission is to relieve suffering and distress for those injured or in danger due to accidents or natural hazards. This report summarizes our activities and achievements for the year 2024.

## Summary of Activities

In 2024, the MMRT responded to a total of 65 incidents, conducted numerous training exercises, and participated in a broad range of events amounting to thousands of volunteer hours dedicated to supporting the objectives of the team.

## Exercises

Twice monthly standard team training including Medical, Mountain Skills, Search Skills and Technical Rope Work

External training including team representation at:

- MRI Party Leader Courses
- MRI Rigging for Rescue
- MRI Annual Meet
- Several members qualified or re-qualified as WEMSI EMTs
- A Major Joint training exercise based in the Mournes with other NISAR teams (Northern Ireland Search and Rescue Forum) including the North West Mountain Rescue Team, SARDAIN, Skywatch NI and PSNI.

## Events

- A 'Meet the Team' day to maintain and promote the profile of the team in the local community.
- Attendance at numerous community and fundraising events.
- Equipment Maintenance.
- Project meetings to further the development of our new base.
- Board Meetings and meetings with partner bodies including MRI, NISAR, DOJ and external bodies relevant to the work of the team.

## Community Engagement

The MMRT continues to engage with the community through educational talks and safety demonstrations. These efforts help raise awareness about mountain safety and the importance of our work.

## Personnel

The MMRT is comprised of 33 active members who collectively contributed thousands of hours of service on an entirely voluntary basis. This commitment is dominated by hours contributed at night and at weekends underlining the passion and commitment our volunteers bring to the community.

## Finances and Governance

The team maintain registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and submit accounts to the Charity Commission and Companies House annually. The team's Board of Directors are represented as members of NISAR, MRI and the team retains membership of NICVA.

## Collaboration with Other Agencies

Throughout the year, the MMRT worked closely with multiple agencies to ensure effective and coordinated rescue operations. These agencies include: Local Police / Ambulance and Fire Services / UK and Irish Coastguard / Other Voluntary Search and Rescue Teams across Ireland.

## Support During Extreme Weather

The MMRT also provided crucial support to the local Health Trust and Council during periods of extreme weather. Our team assisted in ensuring the safety and well-being of the community during these challenging times.

## Future Goals

Looking ahead, the MMRT aims to:

- Enhance training programs for team members and recruit new members to supplement our capacity.
- Continue to maintain and upgrade rescue equipment and vehicles.
- Increase community outreach and education efforts.
- See to fruition the construction of our new rescue base in Newcastle.

## Conclusion

The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team remains committed to providing a 24/7 rescue service to underpin the safety of those who work, rest, and play in the Mourne Mountains and beyond. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, supporters, and the community for their continued support.

# Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team (DWMRT)



As our team celebrated our 40th year in operation, 2024 was another busy year with our volunteers responding to 112 callouts across the Dublin and Wicklow mountains and in the Cooley mountain range in Louth.

This year, we also made significant progress in our efforts to establish a permanent base, which will be a major step forward for the team's future.

The team dealt with a wide range of incidents throughout the year, from lost and injured hikers to complex multi-agency rescues.

An increase in hillwalking and outdoor activities across our operational areas resulted in a steady stream of callouts throughout the year and our second busiest year to date.

These were a mix of minor and more significant trauma, medical issues, and searches for missing persons. Our cooperation with other emergency services, including the Coast Guard, National Ambulance Service, and An Garda Síochána, was essential in managing these incidents efficiently.

Our SAR dog unit also had a busy year, with several callouts. Our four qualified dogs and handlers were joined by another who graduated from training to operational status in June. Our dog team now has two qualified airscenting search dogs and three qualified trailing dogs, all of which are certified by UKK9.

Among our search deployments was a significant find by search dog Maggie in January, which helped ensure a vulnerable patient received rapid care.

Maintaining high standards in training is a priority throughout the year.

Several members of our team upskilled or recertified to Swiftwater Response Technician (SRT), while our team also had several members undertake training to maintain Rope Rescue Technician and Rope Rescue Operator qualifications with Rescue3.

We also continued our recruitment and development programs, welcoming four probationary members and supporting them as they progressed through their training pathway.

A major focus for 2024 was progressing our plans for a dedicated rescue base. For years, the team has operated out of a small facility at the back of Roundwood Garda Station, which is no longer fit for purpose. In 2020, we secured land for a new base, and 2024 saw significant progress to bring the project closer to reality.

With construction set to get underway imminently and over €600,000 saved towards the build, we recently launched a GoFundMe campaign to help raise the remaining €250,000 needed. The response from the community and supporters has been hugely encouraging.

The team remains heavily reliant on fundraising and community support. Events such as Art O'Neill, Walk The Line, and Run the Line have been crucial in keeping the team operational. As we move into 2025, our priorities remain focused on delivering an effective rescue service, developing our team, and securing the funding needed for our base. The continued dedication of our volunteers and the support from the wider community ensures that we can keep doing what we do best – helping those in need in the mountains.

We extend our thanks to everyone who has contributed to the team this year, from the volunteers giving their time to those who have supported our fundraising efforts. Here's to another year of teamwork and progress.





# Glenn of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team (GOIMRT)



In 2024, the Glen of Imaal Wicklow Mountain Rescue Irish Red Cross Team responded to 107 callouts, with 102 of these being joint operations alongside the Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team.

Of all callouts 36% involved lower leg injuries, 33% of callouts were successfully located using SARLOC. 69.2% occurred during daylight hours.

Our team statistician and communications officer recorded 2,964.3 person-hours spent by team members on callouts. 9,022.3 person-hours in total, including callouts, meetings, training, and additional duties.

In April, we hosted our 'Craic of Dawn' fundraiser at Avondale Forest Park. The event, centered around a sunrise treetop walk, was a great success.

Our main fundraiser 'The Moonlight Challenge' was again a success. With team members, volunteers and supporters rolling in to make another memorable fundraising event. As part of our moonlight challenge fundraiser the team in collaboration with the NPWS supplied and installed nest boxes for Wicklow's declining Barn Owl population.

This year saw major developments at our team base, including the opening of a new outdoor classroom in memory of long-time supporter Angela Sweeney.

Completion of our car park extension. Commencement of construction on a rope rescue training wall for outdoor technician development. Training in 2024 focused primarily on medical response, technical rope rescue, and search management.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us throughout 2024.



# South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association (SEMRA)

South Eastern



Another busy year for SEMRA comes to a close. We look back on the year with pride for all that has been achieved and with gratitude that we have all come safely through. Our team of 56 members has worked hard and with huge commitment to provide an essential emergency service to our community. We are supported in this by our families, the unsung heroes of Mountain Rescue, who allow us to do what we do. Five new recruits joined our team in 2025 and we welcome them into our mountain rescue family and hope that they will be with us for a long time.

We are very appreciative of the landowners in our area, they are extremely accommodating and allow us access through their fields and farms whenever needed. Any time we have been involved in a large operation, we are always blown away by the kindness of the local people who offer us space to park, bring us food and cannot do enough to help us.

We continue to work closely with An Garda Síochána, the National Ambulance Service, the Coast Guard especially Rescue 117, Civil Defence, Fire and Rescue Service and our fellow Mountain Rescue Teams to highlight a few.

In SEMRA we spend a lot of time meeting with Scout, Cub and Beaver Groups and walking clubs, either going to visit them or having them come to our base. It is an excellent opportunity to prepare hillwalkers and scouts about what to expect if they do need to call Mountain Rescue. We talk through what they need to have with them and what they can do while they wait for the team to reach them. SEMRA attended the Emergency Services Day in Kilkenny this year as well as St Patrick's Day parades in Tipperary town and Cahir, although a hasty exit was made from the Cahir Parade for a call out!

SEMRA responded to 51 call outs in 2024 an increase of 10 on the previous year and matches our post covid high of 2021. The majority of the calls were for lower leg injuries (16) and lost walkers (16) with the balance made up of other minor injuries, cragfast, missing and medical. The Galtees and

Comeraghs are the most popular mountain ranges for call outs with Coumshingaun in the Comeraghs continuing to be a hotspot along with the Northern and Southern approaches to Galtee Mor. Calls for the Knockmealdowns, Slievenamon, the Blackstairs, Mount Brandon and further afield to Wexford are added to the mix.

Team training is an important part of our activities. Just some of the training this year included Off Road Driving, Rope Rigging, Medical, Search Management, Party Leader and winter training in Poland. We are lucky to have team members who can provide ongoing training to the team as well as access to outside courses and every call is a learning experience no matter how long you've been on the team.

Our annual fund raiser, Long Way Round, normally held in November had to be postponed this year due to adverse weather conditions. We have been lucky that this is the first time in 10 years that we have had to postpone (apart from Covid), it was an extremely difficult decision to make but looking back it was the correct one. We wouldn't be much of a mountain rescue team if we encouraged over 800 people to head out in a storm. Our rescheduled walk takes place on the 25th January 2025 and hopefully the weather will be in our favour. The event is sold out for the second year in a row and has remained sold out even with the change of date.

SEMRA is supported by many agencies who have provided Grant funding to enable us to purchase new equipment, including a new Land Rover in 2024 and provide training. We are very grateful for the assistance we receive from Leader, Clár, Ulster Bank Dormant Funds, the HSE, Tipperary Volunteer Centre and MRI.

We truly appreciate all our supporters, the clubs, businesses, individuals, LWR participants and volunteers. We express our deepest gratitude to them for their support and pledge to continue to serve them to the best of our ability.







# In Loving Memory Octavius (Ocky) Job

On July 2nd 2024 our team received a call that no team wants to get.  
Our good friend and colleague Ocky had taken a fall on the slopes of Ben Bulbin.

Ocky joined Sligo Leitrim Mountain rescue (SLMRT) on January 31st 2017. He quickly established himself as a valued and highly motivated team member. Ocky was someone who looked after those around him.

He often came across as quiet, but once you got to know him, he had an excellent dry wit and always greeted you with a big swashbuckling smile. He brought calmness to chaos, and the impossible was just the untried.

He was highly regarded on the team, amongst his peers. His dedication, professionalism, and charm were among the many attributes he brought to SLMRT, and we are all proud to have served alongside him.

Ocky was immensely proud of his family, and this was evident when he would speak about his three children, his grandson and his late wife, Vanessa.

He died doing what he loved and was brought home by those who loved him like a brother.

It has been a tough and challenging few months for all in SLMRT. We would like to thank Ocky's family for allowing us to be so involved in his final farewell. We hope we did Ocky proud.

Mountain Rescue Teams from all around Ireland gathered together to pay their respects for Ocky and his family and friends at his Celebration of Life. He was laid to rest in Rathcormac, reunited with his beloved Vanessa under the shadow of Benbulbin, a place that brought so much joy and happiness to him. He lived a life less ordinary, full of love and adventure, unfortunately it was a life taken too soon.

We would like to thank all the members of mountain rescue teams around Ireland, and Mountain Rescue Ireland for all their continued support and kind words.

**Thank You Ocky! Thanks for being a teammate, for the laughs and memories and thank you for being you. You will be sorely missed by so many, and thought about always. Walk free on those hills now. This is all the team at SLMRT saying farewell.**

# SMALL CHANGE BIG DIFFERENCE

Mountain rescue teams are only possible due to the commitment of the volunteers who dedicate to being on call 24/7/365 to assist those in need.

These volunteers achieve this with minimal state support, and assume the costs of their own time and effort. We are required to reach out to the public to ask for support for the work that we do.

Please visit our website and give what you can.

[www.mountainrescue.ie/donate](http://www.mountainrescue.ie/donate)

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# Saving Lives in the Mountains

24 / 7 / 365



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