

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

# RESCUE '24

Incidents attended during 2023



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# CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

Clapham, North Yorkshire LA2 8HH

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*Volunteers, saving lives above and below ground in the Yorkshire Dales, North Lancashire and SE Cumbria*

## What has Otto von Bismarck got to do with it?

He said "Only a fool learns from his own mistakes. The wise man learns from the mistakes of others."

So, welcome to Rescue '24, your annual opportunity to acquire more outdoor wisdom, leading, we hope, to your safer enjoyment of the Malhamdale, Three Peaks (and the rest) area of the Yorkshire Dales. As is usual in CRO's public utterances, we have tried to be non-judgmental and will stick to that principle, even when we are accused of being 'anti-Darwinian' (Think about that!). Accidents **do** happen to people who seem to have followed safety advice and taken all the precautions – examples abound in the following pages. However, you may also find a few who've had 'the rescue experience' because of shortcomings in their planning, environmental awareness, equipment or realistic aims. Remember Otto, then 'live and learn', but also smile, because you know it couldn't happen to you, could it?

## TOTAL INCIDENTS ATTENDED BY MAIN TEAM IN 2023 = 89

67 'mountain' incidents  
4 'cave' incidents  
10 'animal' incidents (5 u/grd, 5 surface)  
8 'local' incidents (team's equipment and skills applied in 'other' situations)  
Plus 13 alerts for overdue walkers or cavers, not requiring a call out.

**Total volunteer hours on incidents: 2776, plus 10 hours for alerts.**

**All incidents are in North Yorkshire unless otherwise stated.**

In the following pages, an icon shows what the 'casualty' was doing (except in the case of 'Animal' or 'Local' incidents).

### 'Mountain' incidents:



Walking



Photography



Fell running



Farmer



Climbing



Caver on surface



Cycling



Paragliding

### 'Cave' incidents:



Caving



Show cave visiting

### 'Animal' incidents:



Dogs



Sheep/Lambs

### 'Local' incidents:



Assist Ambulance



Assist Police



'Alerts':-

Alerts' are calls resolved without the team going out, so are not numbered and receive only passing mention in the year's statistics. All incidents are in North Yorkshire unless shown otherwise.

To save space, we have used the following **ABBREVIATIONS**

**ATV** All-Terrain Vehicle

**BCRC** British Cave Rescue Council

**BPMRT** Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team

**COMRU** Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit

**CPC** Craven Pothole Club

**CPR** Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation

**CumPol** Cumbria Police

**LanCon** Lancashire Constabulary

**'misper'** missing person

**MREW** Mountain Rescue England & Wales

**MRSDE** Mountain Rescue Search Dogs (England)

**MRT** Mountain Rescue Team

**NPAS** National Police Air Service

**NWAA** North West Air Ambulance

**NWAS** North West Ambulance Service

**NYFRS** North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

**NYLRF** North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum

**NYP** North Yorkshire Police

**RRCPC** Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club

**SwMRT** Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team

**UWFRA** Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Assoc'n

**YAA** Yorkshire Air Ambulance

**YAS** Yorkshire Ambulance Service

## Incidents During 2023

### JANUARY



**01. Jan. 8th Sun. 16.48 Path Nr Stainforth Scar Wood, Langcliffe**

A farmer (m, 23) slipped down a muddy slope while looking for a missing sheep at dusk, near the path to Stainforth from Winskill. With a suspected dislocated a shoulder, he was unable to scramble back up the bank. He phoned for an ambulance then rang a family member who helped him and took him to hospital. Safely on their way, they called YAS to stand the ambulance down, but this did not reach CRO until members had gathered at the road-head, by Winskill Stones.



**02. Jan. 22nd Sun. 10.24 Path Between Hoffmann Kiln Lane and Langcliffe**

A walker (m, 38) slipped on the thawing ice surface of the field path between Hoffmann Kiln Lane and Langcliffe, sustaining a lower leg fracture. The YAS ambulance crew drove to within 100m of the casualty, then asked for CRO's assistance. When the paramedics had treated the walker, team members stretchered him to the ambulance then helped move it onto tarmac.



### Meet the fleet!

Currently, CRO has a 'fleet' of four vehicles, three of which are Land Rover Defender 130s, varying in age from eight to eighteen years, plus a Honda Pioneer 'side-by-side ATV' (shown left), now a little over four years old. The make-up of that fleet is currently under review, given the demise/

*continues over the page*



# Descent

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**03. (same day) 14.05 Descent Path from Whernside, Ingleton**

A walker (f, 37) tripped and fell, head first, on the rocky first section of the path from the summit ridge of Whernside towards Bruntscar. YAS sent their RRV and YAA, then called CRO, to be joined, later, by a road ambulance. The pilot delivered his paramedics to the cloud base, about 100m from the casualty, then returned to airlift six team members, a Bell stretcher, vacuum mattress and rope in two flights. The paramedics diagnosed injuries to thoracic spine and an elbow. Having been 'packaged' safely, the casualty was stretchered to the helicopter. Team members walked down with all the kit and drove the walkers who had stopped to help, back to their cars at Ribbleshead and Horton.



**Whernside—preparing for flight**

**04. Jan 23rd Mon. 09.09 Ingleborough**

An aspiring Three Peaks walker (m, 39) reported that he had 'fallen over and broken a finger, going into shock. Cannot continue with journey and require help.' '4 miles from the bottom' on the descent from Ingleborough. With no result from the statutory services' location system, the CRO duty controller's PhoneFind showed the walker to be part-way down the Swine Tail on the Horton path. He was asked to regain the summit and cross to the Ingleton end, where he would be met. Three members drove up to Crina Bottom and one ran

up to the summit. The walker, with whom there was good telephone communication, was unable to progress because of the pain and a complete loss of confidence after a further fall. The team member decided that, because of the cold, he would guide the walker, as quickly as was safe, down the less slippery, stone-pitched route to Humphrey Bottom. The other team members drove the Land Rover round to Chapel le Dale

**Meet the fleet!**

/demise of the Defender 130, the great range of alternative vehicles available and the changing demands made of the team and its transport. In the reports of incidents in the following pages, the vehicles used are usually referred to by their radio call-signs, thus CRO 1 and CRO 2 are the equipment-carrying Land Rovers, each with five seats. The third Land Rover, CRO 3, carries seven members to an incident and can then be re-configured



to return to the road-head with a patient on a stretcher, plus three people seated. CRO 4, the Honda Pioneer can carry four people and only a very minimum of equipment, but its weight – and thus pressure on the ground – is only a fraction of one of the Land Rovers. It is used to carry casualty carers rapidly and usually more directly to a casualty site, so that assessment and care may begin before the main party and equipment arrive.

and across fields, with one then walking up to lend moral support. All descended to the vehicle and returned to CRO Base. After inspection, the finger – dislocated or broken – was strapped to the adjacent finger and the casualty was returned to his car, in Horton, from where his sister would take him to hospital.

**05. Jan. 28th Sat. 14.10 Grey Scars Nr Long Kin West, Ingleborough**

Two walkers (f, 51; m, 47) called for help when they and their dog lost the path off Ingleborough in thick mist and having lost the mapping app on their phone. The mobile phone company provided the Police with a grid reference, showing them to be near Long Kin West pot-hole. This was confirmed to within a few metres by the team's PhoneFind app. The pair were unwilling to simply 'walk down-hill', fearing that they would become even more lost in the poor visibility. A few CRO members were returning from a training exercise with BPMRT, so they collected CRO 4, drove up to Grey Scars and recovered the 'mispers' back to Clapham.

**Alert only. Jan. 29th Sun. 18.21 Malham**

NYP put the team on stand-by when advised of a vulnerable man in difficulty and possibly at serious risk near Malham. Fortunately, they resolved the situation satisfactorily without CRO's involvement.

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**FEBRUARY**

**06. Feb. 7th Sat. 14.42 Warrendale Knotts, Settle**

A heavily pregnant ewe was stranded on a ledge at the western end of Warrendale Knotts, above Settle. The farmer hoped it would self-rescue when it became hungry, but after three days, he called CRO via NYP. A team member was lowered to the ledge. Distracting the sheep with feed nuts, he was able to grab her and wrestle her into an animal rescue bag. Sheep and team member were lowered gently to the foot of the crag. (Photos over page.)

Matthew Holroyd  
07724 735275

Edward Wilson  
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between the teams in that area. A local team member drove up the Silverdale road to meet the reporting person but met the whole group — all safe and well — driving back down towards Stainforth. Although their first 999 call had gone to NYP, the second, saying all was well, had gone to LanCon and had not, at that point, been communicated to either rescue team.

**08. (same day) 20.27 South of Sulber Nick Path, Horton in Ribblesdale**

Two Three Peaks walkers (f, 26; f, 22) told NYP that they were lost in the dark and low cloud, coming from Ingleborough down to Horton. The description suggested that they had lost the path where it crosses an area of surface limestone between Sulber Nick proper and Beecroft Hall, then drifted to the South. While other members headed for Horton as a precaution, two local members walked up from Beecroft, found the mispers, escorted them down to a member's car and returned them to Horton car park.

**Alert only Feb. 17th Fri. 20.28 Pen y ghent**

Two people, with two dogs, reported themselves stranded on the path down over the crags at the southern end ("the sharp end") of Pen y ghent in very strong wind. They asked the Police for Mountain Rescue, but the duty controller soon received a call to say that other walkers had assisted them back over the summit and down the easier path to Horton Scar Lane.

**09. Feb. 18th Sat. South of Sulber Nick Path, Horton in Ribblesdale**

Three Three Peaks walkers (all m, 23) said they were lost in the dark, with one of their party struggling to walk, coming off Ingleborough. They thought they were about a mile from Horton. The team's PhoneFind app put them in exactly the same location as in incident no 8, so the same procedure was followed. Although they had torches, none had a map.

**10. Feb. 21st Tue. 14.00 Giggleswick Quarry**

A Border Collie dog fell 25 or 30m from the top of Giggleswick Quarry, landing on a ledge which is covered in loose rock. NYF&RS's Settle firefighters attended, then members of CRO

were called. When one member began roping down, the edge was found to be rather loose, so the team's Larkin Frame was erected and fixed in position. The volunteer was lowered to the ledge and confirmed, sadly, that the dog had not survived the landing. Having put the dog, carefully, into our large animal bag, the member and bag were hauled to the top by team members and firefighters, but not without rattling down a few loose stones on the way. The dog's remains were returned to its owner and all present helped recover the equipment as night fell.



**07. Feb. 16th Thu. 19.46 Fountains Fell, Malham Moor**

UWFRA called CRO when a man reported his wife, son and a friend overdue on a walk over Fountains Fell in the dark with low cloud and drizzle. The Pennine Way is the boundary



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Incident 10 (continued)

Photos (previous page) show the team member discovering just how loose the quarry edge actually was; same member at the site where the dog had landed; the Larkin frame erected and anchored and (this page) being removed as darkness fell.

The Larkin Frame is a tubular aluminium fabrication which is assembled on site, moved to the quarry edge and anchored securely. Part of the structure pivots overhead and forward so that the team member may be lowered down, clear of the quarry face. A pulley system gives mechanical advantage to ease the task of hauling the weight back up, before pivoting back in for the team member to regain firm ground.



**11. Feb. 24th Fri. 12.37 Path from Feizor to Austwick**

A walker (m, 85) heading towards Austwick on the track from Feizor collapsed due to a suspected cardiac arrest. Sadly, despite the best efforts of the walker's companion, YAS, YAA and CRO, all revival attempts were unsuccessful.

FATAL

**MARCH**

**12. Mar. 5th Sun. 14.11 Little Ingleborough, Clapham**

A walker (m, 58) beginning the descent from Little Ingleborough to Gaping Gill tripped on a protruding rock. In falling forward with arms outstretched, he suffered a suspected shoulder dislocation. The group leader rang 999, asked for 'Police', then 'Mountain Rescue', offered mild pain relief and fastened the injured arm in the least painful position before all continued gently down. A little short of Gaping Gill, they were met by team members in CRO 4. This took the injured walker via Newby Cote to CRO Base to meet the YAS road ambulance. Other team members, who had driven to Trow Gill as a precaution, were able

to offer some of the delayed walking group a lift back to their coach in Clapham.

**13. Mar. 6th Mon. 20.01 Malham**

NYP called CRO following a report of someone threatening self-harm. Team members met in Malham car park and were organising into search groups when they learned that the police had found the 'missing' person, unharmed.

**14. Mar. 11th Sat. 13.54 The Coal Road, Garsdale, Cumbria**

CumPol received a call for help from a couple in a car, stranded in snow. Initial information was vague, but seemed to suggest that they were in Deepdale, near Dent. The CRO duty controller asked a local member to investigate as PhoneFind messages were going unanswered. With a member collecting a Land Rover and others on stand-by, a message was received that the car was actually on 'the Coal Road', which joins Dent and Garsdale stations. On reaching the end of this road, the local member was told that another motorist had put carpet under the car's wheels, so it could be driven out.

**15. Mar. 16th Thu. 10.41 Malham Cove**

NYP called CRO after someone, believed to be deceased, was seen on the ground beneath Malham Cove. A small team searched a ledge above the site, then the Cove edge itself for personal effects. With Police formalities concluded, the deceased was stretchered to a team Land Rover, driven down to the car park and transferred to an ambulance.

FATAL

**16. Mar. 18th Sat 15.57 Tow Scar, Thornton In Lonsdale**

A paraglider pilot (f, 53) made a very hard landing near Tow Scar, Kingsdale and was dragged along the ground by her canopy, sustaining very painful rib and possibly back and pelvic injuries. YAS paramedics were first on scene, gave pain relief and, together with the team doctor, assessed the patient before she was placed in a vacuum mattress then onto a stretcher. With the wet land deemed too prone to damage to use a vehicle, team members carried and wheeled the stretcher and patient about half a mile down to the road ambulance.



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**APRIL**

**17. Apr. 1st Sat. 21.00 Lancaster Hole / County Pot, Casterton, Cumbria**

Six cavers (4m, 2f; 'early 20s') were reported overdue on a trip from Lancaster Hole to County Pot. Going underground at 11.30, they anticipated surfacing by 19.30. As another party had seen them, well on their way, earlier in the day, the search was concentrated towards County Pot. Lancaster Hole was then checked in case, getting lost, they had returned over their now-familiar route. As a new party was preparing to go to Lancaster Hole, three of the missing cavers phoned, having emerged from Lancaster Hole. The remaining three needed hauling up the 33m entrance pitch. This done, all returned to Bull Pot Farm by 05.15.

Thanks to RRCPC for the use of Bull Pot Farm as a base. Also to members of the 'extended cavers' list' and caving members of UWFRA, Swaledale MRT and COMRU who were called out in support. Most were stood down en route. Footnote for 'Easegill aficionados': A debate on route-finding around the Stop Pot area caused the group to go to the bottom of the climbs that lead to the Wretched Rabbit entrance (Then unstable, so inadvisable.). They then re-traced their steps all the way back to Lancaster Hole. Having, effectively, done two good caving trips in one, hence the need for a pull out. It seems that they and the search teams missed each other by about an hour in three different places.

**18. Apr. 15th Sat. 10.54 Park Fell, Ingletton**

A fell-runner (f, 57) slipped on mud while ascending Park Fell from Colt Park, near Ribbleshead, sustaining a suspected ankle fracture. Her companions called CRO via NYP,

then kept the casualty warm until team members arrived. After assessment by a team doctor, the casualty's leg was splinted and she was part-carried and part-sledged down the hill on a Bell stretcher. Meanwhile, her companions were taken to their own car which they drove to Colt Park to collect her for the journey to hospital.

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**19. (same day) 17.55 Simon Fell Breast, Ingleborough, Clapham**

A Three Peaks walker (m, 41) sustained a particularly painful lower leg injury when he slipped or tripped at the beginning of the path across Simon Fell Breast — the path from Ingleborough to Sulber Nick. He was assessed by the team doctor, splinted and put into an insulated casualty bag. He was taken, gently, by wheeled Titan stretcher to CRO 3, waiting near Nick Pot then driven to CRO Base to meet his walking companions who had driven round from their finish in Horton.



**20. Apr. 16th Sun. 13.19 Hull Pot, Horton In Ribblesdale**

In attempting to take a photograph from the SSW rim of Hull Pot, a walker (m, 26) ventured a little too far and fell over the edge, landing on the rock-strewn floor of the 90m-long, open pot, some 18m below. CRO members arriving at the site found that an NWAA helicopter had just landed and, also, a local farmer had transported YAS personnel there. Team members rigged and descended the gully at the Eastern end to reach the casualty. They were soon followed by a YAS paramedic, using CRO safety equipment.



**Hull Pot. See also front cover.**

While the casualty, who had regained consciousness and was described as 'quite chatty', was being assessed, other team members rigged a two-line hauling system, with pulleys for 'mechanical advantage', at

the waterfall (Northern) side of the hole. Once 'packaged' and on the stretcher, the casualty was carried across the pot, then he and a 'barrow-boy' were hauled to the surface, with the stretcher kept horizontal. He was handed over to the NWS paramedics who, with the CRO doctor, assessed him thoroughly again before he was flown to hospital. Superficially, the casualty appeared to have a head injury and a broken collarbone. The YAS paramedic, team members and all equipment were recovered for the return to Horton.



**21. Apr. 22nd Sat. 18.30 Nr Pennine Way, Rough Hill, Horton In Ribblesdale**

A group of three Three Peaks walkers said they were exhausted and that one (m, 23) could not move. They seemed to be near the junction of the Three Peaks permissive path with the Pennine Way, near Rough Hill (They were reversing the 'usual' route.) but there was no contact to confirm this, so it was assumed to be correct – or almost so. While one member drove CRO 4 up the Pennine Way, two others drove CRO 3 to High Birkwith, then one continued on foot. He found the party, including the walker incapacitated by cramp, and all were driven to Horton.



**22. Apr. 25th Tue. 11.26 Path from Pike Lane, Langcliffe to Lower Winskill**

A walker (f, 65) felt dizzy and was unable to continue up the steep path above Pike Lane, Langcliffe. Having been on the ground for a while, she tried, unsuccessfully, to stand again, so help was sought. Team members drove to Lower Winskill, walked down to the patient and assessed her condition. As the insulation, re-assurance and glucose tablets provided by her companions seemed to have helped, she was assisted very gently down the hill — with team members carrying a stretcher in case it was needed. CRO 3 met the party at the top of Pike Lane and took the patient to a YAS ambulance waiting in the village.



**23. (same day) 14.23 Top of Malham Cove**

A walker (m, 73) missed his footing on the edge

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of the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove, hitting his head on the rock and suffering lower leg and wrist abrasions. A doctor in his walking group dressed the head wound but left with other group members who were feeling cold, as the team arrived. The bandaging was not disturbed and the casualty was placed in an insulated casualty bag on the Titan stretcher then carried to CRO 3. This took him and his wife to the YAS ambulance on Malham Raikes.



**24. Apr. 27th Thu. 12.30 Gordale Scar, Malham**

A walker (m, 65) fell (possibly 3 – 4m?) from the climb up the lower waterfall at Gordale Scar. On arrival, team members began assessing his injuries before being joined by a YAS paramedic. Although only a head injury was obvious, the casualty was placed, very carefully, into a vacuum mattress (immobilising the whole body) as a precaution and this into an insulated casualty bag. The whole was taken on a wheeled stretcher to the YAS ambulance on Gordale Lane.



**25. Apr. 29th Sat. THREE PEAKS RACE DAY 10.57 B6479 Road, Selside, Horton In Ribblesdale**

After delivering team members to stand by for the race going over Whernside, two members, returning in CRO 3, saw a cyclist almost taking a bend in the road and landing over a wall near Selside. Being in a vehicle marked 'Ambulance' they stopped to offer help. After consultation, they returned to Horton, carrying the cyclist and his bicycle. After assessment by a team member who is a paramedic, the cyclist was taken to his own car and recommended to go to hospital for his suspected rib injury to be investigated.



**26. (same day) 11.09 Pen y ghent**

While competing in the Three Peaks Race, a runner (m, 20) tripped on the approach to the summit of Pen y ghent, having run up via Horton Scar Lane. Falling forwards, he put an arm out to arrest the fall but dislocated a shoulder. The two team members stationed on the summit were alerted and descended the short distance to the casualty. They assisted him, carefully, down to the top of Horton Scar Lane to meet other members in CRO 4. With his shoulder immobilised and supported, the injured runner was driven down to Horton and handed over to the event medical team.

## MAY



### Alert only. May 1st Mon. 00.11 Malhamdale

NYP asked for CRO's assistance following the report of a missing person, believed to be at risk of harm. Team members were preparing to set off when NYP officers found the misper, safe, near Janet's Foss.



### 27. (same day) 14.03 Beezley Falls, Ingleton

YAS called CRO for assistance after a walker (m, 30) collapsed and experienced difficulty in breathing, below Beezley Falls on the return leg of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. As the first team members arrived at the rendez-vous point, YAS said the crew did not need assistance, so team members stood down.



### 28. (same day) 18.22 Simon Fell Breast, Ingleborough, Clapham

A Three Peaks walker (f, 58) suffered severe pain while walking over Wherside. This became progressively worse and she began to vomit. By Simon Fell Breast (the path from Ingleborough to Sulber Nick), she could go no further, so a companion rang for help. The duty controller called out the team but asked that when the walker had rested a little she might be walked gently towards the old shooting hut. He sent CRO 2 and CRO 3 to the Nick Pot area and CRO 4 up from Newby. The walkers made slow but steady progress and were met by team members who had jogged up from the vehicles, carrying rescue kit in case of a relapse. All made it safely back to CRO 3 and were driven down to Austwick where the walkers' friends (including a doctor) would meet them.



### 29. May 2nd Tue. 16.42 Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough, Ingleton

A Three Peaks walker (m, 59) collapsed on the steep path onto Ingleborough at Humphrey Bottom. Almost immediately, his wife began CPR and this was continued by paramedics from NWAA, when they arrived. The first CRO members on scene found that paramedics from a YAS road ambulance were also there. When prolonged CPR proved ineffective, a team vehicle returned the YAS paramedics to the road-head and the deceased walker's wife, accompanied by

a team member, back to Horton to meet a family member. Team members waited on the hill until a police officer could be driven up to complete the formalities. The deceased walker was stretchered down to CRO 3 then driven to the road-head to meet YAS transport. FATAL



### Alert only May 6th Sat. 21.43 Nr Dismal Hill, Horton In Ribblesdale

A group of Three Peaks walkers could not locate one of their members who had become tired and had agreed to wait for them while they finished the route. While the duty controller was obtaining further information from the police, the group advised that they had found the missing walker.



### 30. May 15th Mon. 11.35 Farm Nr Giggleswick

YAS requested CRO's assistance in carrying a patient (m, 67) to an ambulance, following his collapse in a farm building. Members arrived to find him already in the ambulance, so they stood down.



### 31. May 17th Wed. 13.19 Nr Pecca Falls, Thornton in Lonsdale

A visitor called the Police, saying that his wife was feeling dizzy and sick on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail and needed Mountain Rescue. The call dropped out and NYP could not re-establish contact but the call was believed to have come from near Pecca Falls, Thornton in Lonsdale. The duty controller phoned the IWT pay-box to be told that the caller had said his wife had sat down, had a drink of water and was feeling better, so they would continue to Beezleys and return down Oddie's Lane. As a precaution, three members set off up Oddie's Lane in a team Land Rover. Meanwhile the caller advised NYP that all was well, so the team stood down.



### 32. May 20th Sat. 11.07 Gragareth, Leck, Lancashire

A party of three men contacted NYP to say that one of them had become stuck fast in a bog on the Gragareth ridge, above Kingsdale. A small team set off to investigate but were stood down when one of the party called to say that their friend had been extricated and, fortunately, was uninjured. *Pic opposite.*

You never know who you might meet on the CRO Challenge!  
'See page 36.'



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### 33. (same day) 20.21 Wherside, Chapel-le-dale

The party of a Three Peaks walker (f, 40) contacted NYP to say she was having difficulty descending from Wherside due to very painful knees which were getting worse as she continued. A small team attended and, with assistance from her friends, managed to walk her down to a team vehicle which took her to meet other friends at the roadhead.



### 34. May 21st Sun. 14.24 Grey Gill, Malham

YAS asked for assistance with a walker (m, 36) who had slipped on the path from Gordale Bridge to Malham Cove and sustained a serious ankle injury. After assessment and administration of pain relief by YAS paramedics and the team doctor, the injured walker's ankle was splinted by team members who stretchered him to the road-head.



### 35. (same day) 16.38 Gordale Scar, Malham

Just as members were clearing up and leaving the scene of the previous incident, they were alerted to another injured walker on the path where it enters the gorge at Gordale Scar. The

walker (f, 23) had slipped on rocks near the path, injuring her ankle. She was unable to walk, so, after treatment of the injury, she was stretched to a YAS road ambulance.

**36. May 27th Sat. 11.30 Newby Moss, Clapham-cum-Newby**

**CAVE HOLE** (BOGGARTS ROARING HOLES area) Two team members, walking from Ingleton to Gaping Gill, found that a sheep was stranded about 10m down in Cave Hole. Re-inforcements were called. A team member abseiled in and wrestled the sheep into a flight bag before it was hauled to the surface and released, a little stiff, but unharmed.



**FIFE POT** (GREY SCARS area) Cavers had also heard a lamb, bleating very loudly, about 7m down in Fife Pot. The team moved on and the procedure was repeated. The lamb trotted off to be re-united with its mother.



**37. May 29th Mon. 12.4037 Nr Pecca Falls, Thornton In Lonsdale**

A CRO controller and two NYFRS officers were working on the risk assessment elements of an emergency plan for the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail when a visitor asked for help. His partner (f, 32) had sustained an ankle injury and was unable to put weight on it. They assisted her to a team vehicle and returned the pair to their own car to seek medical assistance.

**38. (same day) 13.17 White Scar Cave, Ingleton**


A visitor (m, 60), with known medical conditions, was suspected of having a possible heart attack after climbing the steps into the Battlefield Chamber at the extremity of White Scar Cave. Team members, the two fire officers and a police officer attended and the patient was found to be conscious and breathing. A team doctor assessed him and agreed that he could be walked gently back to the cave entrance where he was handed over to YAS paramedics. Footnote: There is a prominent cautionary sign at the show cave entrance, advising visitors with known cardiac conditions that part of the cave is strenuous.

**39. May 30th Tue. 12.00 Un-named Shaft Nr Whitmore Pot, Whitewell, Lancashire**

BPMRT passed on a request to rescue a lamb which had fallen 20m down an un-named, abandoned shaft SW of Whitmore Pot near Whitewell, Bowland Forest. Two team members descended, locating the lamb down a narrow rift, beyond a constriction. The lamb was extricated with some difficulty, resuscitated and released on the surface.

**40. May 31st Wed. 11.14 Pen y ghent**

A walker (m) was reported to have fallen and banged his head, on the summit of Pen y ghent. He had passed out, but was now conscious and breathing, although feeling dizzy and unable to walk back down. Team members met at the car park in Horton in Ribblesdale and were setting off up the hill when it was learned that an air ambulance had landed on the summit and would fly the patient down to Horton for transfer to a road ambulance,




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**JUNE**

**41. Jun. 2nd Fri. 16.53 Little Stainforth**

NYP called for assistance following the disappearance of a visitor (f, 44) believed to be at risk. As members waited at the RV point, the NPAS helicopter crew reported sighting the misper, sitting on a hill-side and apparently unharmed about a kilometre from the point where she had last been seen.

**42. Jun. 3rd Sat. 11.39 Path from Gordale Bridge to Malham Rakes, Malham**

YAS called CRO after a walker (f, 53) fell and sustained a shoulder injury on the path from Gordale Bridge to the Malham Rakes road. However, she was then considered close enough to the road for an ambulance crew to deal with, so the team was stood down. Then, at 12.16, the YAS paramedics having discovered that the casualty was in too much pain just to be walked to the road ambulance, the team was called again. A small group of team members went to the site, helped the YAS personnel ease the casualty on to a team stretcher and carried her to the ambulance, parked on the Malham Rakes road. The team was then able to stand down.

Mountain Weather Information Service ([www.mwis.org.uk](http://www.mwis.org.uk)) gives daily weather forecasts for the Dales and other upland areas.

**43. Jun. 10th Sat. 09.46 Hull Pot, Horton in Ribblesdale**

A sheep fell into Hull Pot. While one team member abseiled approximately 18m down to the sheep and persuaded it into a flight bag, four others set up a hauling system. The sheep was brought to the surface and turned over to the farmer.

**44. (same day) 15.43 Above Thornton Force, Thornton in Lonsdale**

A visitor (f, 54) twisted her ankle ascending the steps above Thornton Force, leaving her unable to walk. After assessment by a team doctor, she was splinted and assisted onto a wheeled stretcher. Team members eased the stretcher carefully back down the steep steps and to a team vehicle for the drive to her party's own vehicle.

**45. (same day) 18.10 Simon Fell Breast, Ingleborough, Clapham**

A well-equipped Three Peaks walker (f, 31) twisted her knee on the summit of Ingleborough. She attempted to continue with her group but was able to descend only as far as the Simon Fell Breast path. Two team members took CRO 4 up the fellside to her location, while CRO 2 and CRO 3 took a support party to a point lower down the path. After assessment by a team doctor, the casualty was helped into CRO 4 and taken off the fell. Other team members walked up to meet the party's guide, relieving him of equipment taken out of CRO 4 to make room for the casualty.





**46. Jun. 13th Tue. 13.29 'Giggleswick Scar North', Cave Hole Wood,**

**Lawkland**

A climber (m, 75) walked up to the Giggleswick Scar (North) crag but collapsed, immediately on arrival. Despite the best efforts of his companions at CPR, then the protracted efforts of YAS paramedics, he could not be revived. With police formalities completed, team members stretchered the deceased down to a YAS ambulance

FATAL



**47. Jun. 17th Sat. 13.19 Descent Path from Whernside, Ingleton**

A Three Peaks walker (f, 52) experienced severe pain in one leg while descending the rocky path from Whernside summit, eventually becoming unable to continue. CRO members ascended to the casualty's location where a team doctor assessed her. She was then assisted onto a stretcher and wheeled back down the fell to CRO 3, which took her and her party to their own vehicle.



**48. (same day) 14.41 Descent Path from Whernside, Ingleton**

A group of Three Peaks walkers called NYP when one of their number (m, 33) went missing between Whernside summit and Philpin Lane after experiencing some difficulties. A team vehicle checked Philpin Lane back to the Hill Inn but failed to locate him. CRO team members, already on scene for Incident 47, were redeployed to search routes that the missing walker might have taken. He was located, eventually, on Ingleborough summit, having passed and gone ahead of his group without their realising.



**49. Jun. 18th Sun. 10.15 Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton**

A lamb was spotted on a ledge near the top of Mealbank Quarry. It was left overnight for a chance to self-rescue (often the safest option for the animal), but it was still there on Sunday. A team member was lowered to the ledge and secured the lamb, then both were hauled to the top. The un-injured lamb was released – well away from the quarry edge.



**50. (same day) 13.00 Peart Crags, Settle**

A walker (f, 59) fell while crossing a wall, injuring her right shoulder and back. Two team members carried out an initial assessment before YAA paramedics arrived and took over. The casualty was helped to a team vehicle and driven down to Settle for transfer to a road ambulance.



**51. Jun 19th Mon. 19.18 'Giggleswick Scar North', Cave Hole Wood,**

**Lawkland**

A climber (f, 20) on Giggleswick Scar (North) fell approximately 4m, injuring her left ankle. The usual climbers' path is awkward for a stretcher carry, so one group of team members began rigging a more direct descent route. Others assessed the injured climber, splinted her ankle and lifted her onto a Bell stretcher. This was lowered on twin ropes down the steep and densely wooded slope to the roadside, where the climber was transferred to her group's vehicle for the journey to hospital.



**News for our supporters:**

Like all search and rescue teams in England & Wales, the Cave Rescue Organisation ('CRO' or 'the team') is a charitable organisation, reliant on people's generosity for donations to continue its work. The statutory emergency services may call out the team day or night, at any time of year and in any conditions, so it's essential that members and equipment are always prepared. The time recorded on call-outs (2,776 volunteer hours in 2023) is dwarfed by the un-recorded time spent on training, equipment and building maintenance, fundraising and just running the Organisation. All this costs at least £50,000 a year but a great deal more, as and when we replace one of our four vehicles. Currently, CRO has 55 operational members with five more in training; helping to kit out each new member costs up to £2,000.

**Every operational or support member is expected to commit some time to fundraising activities and there are plenty to go at:**

- supporting the annual Ingleborough Challenge – this year on Sat 18 May,
- maintaining collecting boxes in shops and businesses across the CRO area,

- staffing the CRO stand at a variety of local events and activities,
- talking to groups – particularly of young people – about rescue (and how to avoid it!)
- seeking support from local business-es,
- maintaining CRO's Just Giving or Local Giving pages,
- other tasks in support of Treasurer and Secretary.

**Coming soon!**

Available from September 2024 To support our fundraising work, we are releasing a 90th Anniversary calendar (1935 – 2025) and a promotional video for distribution across our social media platforms, which together with our new on-line shop, aim to enhance our fundraising effort.

You can help us remain on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by donating to the Cave Rescue organisation. By helping us you will be making a difference for those calling for help, allowing us to keep saving lives above and below ground in the Yorkshire Dales.

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Image: Sally Alsop

# Giving to the Cave Rescue Organisation

Any *recorded* donation made to a registered charity by a UK taxpayer is boosted by 25% (currently) when the charity claims back the income tax assumed to have been paid on the money given. If the donation is by cheque, cash or banker's order (p.20), sent to The Treasurer, CRO, Clapham, via LANCASTER LA2 8HH, it should be accompanied by the completed declaration, below.

Smartphone users have two options. The QR code on page 15 and printed on our collecting box label will take you to the **Just Giving** site with simple instructions to make the donation. CRO pays a small fee for this service.

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Better for CRO, access our page on the Local Giving site with this QR code. Local Giving is, itself, a charity, set up to support small and local charities. Its people offer a free tax refund service.

HMRC also allows Gift Aid on small cash donations made through our collecting boxes. This is limited to a combined total of £2,000 per year.



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Please tell the Treasurer if you wish to cancel the declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on income or capital gains. Higher or additional rate taxpayers wishing to receive tax relief must include Gift Aid donations on their self-assessed tax return or ask HMRC to adjust their tax code.

## Sad Losses

In the year since publication of Rescue '23, CRO has lost four of its oldest members and friends:

**Ian Hopley**, former Duty Controller, **Dr BW (Frank) Walker**, former underground doctor, **Alvin Fawcett**—to CRO he *was* the Ambulance Service, **David St Pierre**, Life Member and long-time supporter. Our thoughts are with their surviving families.

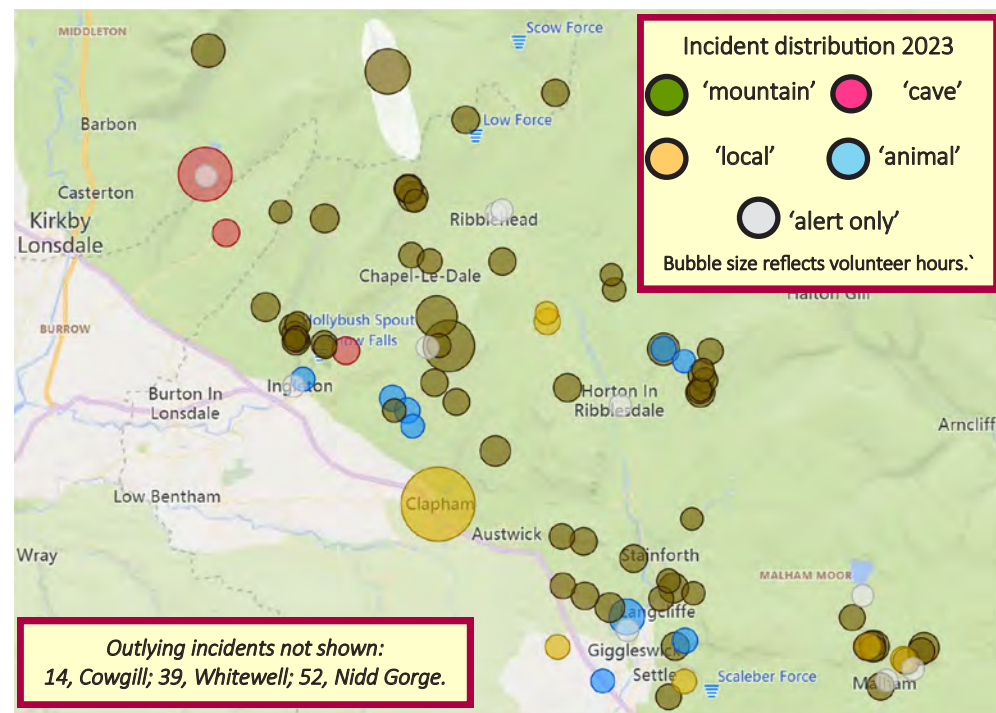
## Visiting the Dales Safely

We want people to enjoy the Dales in safety, asking themselves whether they have the right kit, do they have the knowledge to use it and do they know what the weather will be like? To help spread our safety message to more communities, we've worked with our neighbours in UWFA and with MOSAIC Outdoors to produce some two-minute safety videos, fronted by outdoor enthusiasts from those different communities.

Find the videos via our website [www.cro.org.uk/safety](http://www.cro.org.uk/safety) or scan this QR code with your smartphone to see them via MOSAIC Outdoors. Project funded by the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner.



**OS Locate**, our recommended smartphone app for giving a grid reference, is currently withdrawn. If you need to tell the emergency services where you are, they will ask you to use What3Words. Please, **always insist on also giving a description and placename** in case of spelling errors. We understand that OS Locate may be re-launched as a free addition to OS map purchases at a later date.



## CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION—BANKERS ORDER (24)

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Name of account to be debited: . . . . .

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(\* delete, as appropriate)

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### 52. Jun. 20th Tue. 10.20 Nidd Gorge, Knaresborough

CRO was asked by UWFRA to assist with a search for a missing person, believed to be at risk in or around the Nidd Gorge near Knaresborough. A team from CRO attended, as did members of other North Yorkshire teams. Their searching of areas of interest failed to find the misper.

Sadly, the misper was found, deceased, in the river, the following day. **FATAL**

### 53. Jun. 25th Sun. 10.33 53 Path Between Pecca Bridge and Thornton Force, Thornton in Lonsdale

A visitor (f, 62) was reported to be experiencing chest pains and difficulty in breathing on the outward (western) arm of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, between Pecca Bridge and Thornton Force. As a 'normal' callout was being arranged, two team members and two medical practitioners from other cave rescue teams\* were diverted from Yordas Cave to the casualty site in CRO 4. YAS paramedics were already with the patient

## JULY

### 54. Jul. 1st Sat. 13.20 Path near Summit of Pen y ghent

The party of a walker (f, 27) became stranded on steep rocky ground, in blustery winds, on the path leading up the South end of Pen y ghent. A small group of team members were diverted from a local school fete to assist the party. Other members were sent from the team's base, as a precaution. The party was soon found, assisted to safety and returned to their vehicles.

Footnote: When scrambling or climbing, it is important to judge your capability and the weather. Don't be afraid to 'back off' if the situation starts to become more difficult than you anticipated or if the weather changes.

### Alert only. Jul. 5th Wed. Goyden Pot, Nidderdale

The team was alerted by UWFRA in case assistance was required with an ongoing rescue in Goyden Pot, Nidderdale. Several members were placed on stand-by but were not deployed as UWFRA resolved the incident successfully.

### Dog + Cattle = High Risk?

The worrying or even killing of livestock by dogs is a serious concern for farmers in the Dales. To safeguard sheep, it is a legal requirement that a dog is kept on a lead or otherwise under close control when taken through a field containing sheep. But the risk may be to the dog and its owner if the field contains cattle. A group of frisky young cattle or a cow with its calf may take exception to the dog and charge towards it. This doesn't happen often, but if it happens to you, send the dog away from you as vigorously as possible. Both you and your dog should have more chance of avoiding injury, if you aren't attached to each other. If you have a dog and you do see cattle in a field, keep an eye on them and give them a wide berth to reduce the risk. Also, try not to walk between a cow and its young calf or, indeed, between a ewe and its young lamb.

**55. Jul. 6th Thu. 13.32 Pot Scar, Feizor, Austwick**

A climber (m, 54) fell a short distance (<2m?) onto rocks at Pot Scar, Feizor. Paramedics assessed him and gave pain relief for a shoulder injury. Team members gave him further pain relief, lifting him onto a vacuum mattress as a precaution. A Bell stretcher was then used to carry him down scree and sledge him across grass to CRO 3 which took him to Scar Close, Feizor for transfer to the waiting road ambulance.

**56. Jul.7th Fri. 18.35 Dales Way 'North of Gearstones', Ingleton**

A European visitor (f, 36) was reported to be experiencing chest pains, 'a mile North of Gearstones on the Dales Way'. Telephone issues meant there was no further information, so search parties were organised from Winshaw, High Gayle and the Dentedale road at Stoops Moss. The Stoops Moss group had gone little more than 20 metres from the road when they met the casualty, her companion and a taxi driver, who had parked at the road-head to take them down Dentedale to their night's accommodation. After a thorough examination by the YAS paramedic and advice for the night / following day, should there be a problem, a local member drove the pair to their accommodation. Footnote: The walkers were on their third day of walking the Dales Way and had walked from Upper Wharfedale, that day. It was beautifully hot and sunny, but the walker who was unwell had had but a piece of flapjack and a litre of water, since breakfast.

**57. Jul. 8th Sat. 14.49 Nr Pecca Falls, Thornton In Lonsdale**

A visitor (m, 29) sustained an ankle injury near Pecca Falls on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. After splinting his ankle, team members assisted him to a Land Rover, parked nearby. This took him to the Trail car park for his girlfriend to drive him to hospital.

**58. Jul. 9th Sun. 14.03 Thornton Force, Thornton In Lonsdale**

A visitor (m, 37) slipped, while 'taking a selfie' on the ledge which runs behind the waterfall at Thornton Force on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. He fell and slithered the 3+ metres down onto

rocks, below, and was held there, temporarily by the force of the waterfall. Aided by a friend, he was able to stand and escape the water. He was standing and 'seemed happy' when the first CRO team member arrived, but that member instructed him to stay still until assessed by a healthcare professional. He then experienced pain in his back and elsewhere, so was placed carefully into a vacuum mattress and onto a stretcher. He was carried to a team Land Rover, driven to a road ambulance for full assessment in hospital.



Laughing with the patient, not at him!

**59. Jul. 14th Fri. 20.40 Whernside, Ingleton**

A broken call from a party of three walkers said they were so cold that they feared the onset of hypothermia on the descent from a hill. Data from the mobile phone company gave a grid reference which matched the descent path from Whernside. On listening again, NYP believed that they were walking the Three Peaks. Team members were on their way and some had reached the RV point at the foot of Whernside,

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when the group called the Police to say that they were safely in a car, on their way home.

**60. Jul. 17th Mon. 21.07 Pen y ghent and Plover Hill (Horton in Ribblesdale and Halton Gill)**

A pair of novice hill-walkers (m,32?; f,32?) set off to walk up Pen y ghent at 16.30. They called for help as they became lost while trying to descend to Horton in Ribblesdale. PhoneFind confirmed that they were on the West side of Plover Hill, above the broken line of crags. They were asked to walk up-hill and turn right at the wall towards the Pen y ghent trig point. Two members drove CRO 4 up to the bottom of 'the miners' track' and continued on foot. Telephone communication was very 'hit and miss' but further PhoneFinds showed them to be heading East, off Plover Hill and towards Halton Gill (the opposite of where they were asked to go). Told to stay where they were, they were met by the team members, guided back to CRO 4 and driven to Horton.

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**61. Jul. 21st Fri. 19.39 61 Swan Buttress, 'Giggleswick Scar South', Giggleswick**

A climber (m, 30) slipped and fell near the top of a climb, sustaining a serious injury to his right lower leg. His belayer lowered him back to the ground and called for assistance. Team members, assessed the casualty, splinted his leg, and then lowered him down the steep, wooded slope on a Bell stretcher. At the roadhead, YAS and YAA paramedics assessed him further before taking him to hospital.





**62. Jul. 25th Tue. 17.13 Deepdale Side, Deepdale, Dent, Cumbria**

Two young hillwalkers, in separate parties at different locations but part of the same large group, appeared to be going in and out of consciousness. Limited information placed both parties on the Deepdale side of Whernside. The casualties were located, assessed and brought off the hill for further assessment by paramedics. Once on tarmac, both made remarkable recoveries. While this was going on, a third party from the same group reported another young person with a medical issue near Whernside summit but was able to walk them down without help.



**63. Jul. 29th 18.40 Pen y ghent**

A walker (stated as f, 14) believed she had 'a fractured foot', soon after leaving Pen y ghent summit on the descent towards Hull Pot. A few minutes later, a second call was received to a male walker of the same age, also on Pen y ghent, but with a 'fractured/broken ankle' and with the nearest location of Brackenbottom. A phone call to check confirmed that the two were, in fact, for the same person, who was making his way, carefully, down 'the miners' track'. Some members were stood down, but a small group drove up Horton Scar Lane in CRO 2 and CRO 4. The walker and companion were returned to their accommodation in Horton.

**AUGUST**



**Alert only. Aug. Tue 1st 19.38 Ribblehead / Pen y ghent area**

A caller was concerned that a group of nine friends and family — youngest four years old — who had set off from near Ribblehead for Pen y ghent at 15.30 and had not returned. She had been unable to contact them by phone and described them as lacking appropriate dress, food or drink. The team was put on stand-by and two PhoneFind messages were sent. Successful telephone contact gained assurance that all was well with the overdue party.



**Alert only. (same day) 23.34 Pen y ghent or Ingleborough?**

A caller gave NYP the number of a walker (m) described as 'stuck' with two children, aged 6 and 9. The caller had left them on Pen y ghent

and had since had no contact. They were to complete Pen y ghent and then go on to Ingleborough. The reporting person believed they could be stuck as, if the children tired, the adult would be unable to carry them. The duty controller put the team on stand-by and tried, several times, to call the number given. Eventually, he was told that the mispers were in their car, on the way home.



**64. Aug. 4th Fri. 16.36 Pen y ghent**

A would-be Three Peaks walker called for help when her Dobermann dog – normally good for hill-walking – went lame in one leg. Having walked over Whernside and Ingleborough, he would go no further on the West side of Pen y ghent. The owner and other walkers had to abandon the struggle to carry him and called for help. Two team members drove to the casualty site in CRO 4, then experienced some difficulty in persuading 'Drogo' to get in. Eventually, owner and dog were driven back to their car, parked near Ribblehead.



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**65. Aug. 7th Mon. 11.39 A field Nr Selside, Horton in Ribblesdale**

A local man (78) collapsed while mushrooming in fields near Selside with members of his family. Sadly, despite the prolonged efforts of paramedics from two road ambulances and an air ambulance, he could not be revived. Team members recovered him, by stretcher, to a road ambulance. **FATAL**



**66. Aug. 10th Thu. 13.24 A culvert Nr Giggleswick Station**

A local farmer asked for help when sheep nuts failed to tempt one of her sheep out of a tight water culvert. Eventually, a small team extracted the sheep safely from the culvert, none the worse for the ordeal.



**67. (same day) 15.09 Thornton Force, Thornton in Lonsdale**

As members were clearing up from the sheep rescue, NYP called CRO to assist a walker (f, 52) who had injured her ankle near Thornton Force on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. The ankle was stabilised for the short stretcher carry back to a team vehicle. YAS paramedics attended but were

**Emergency calls only** means your phone can't make normal calls, but can 'roam' to a different network to call 999. **But** no-one can phone you back, nor can you access the internet to load a location app.. In this situation think about your location (placenames, grid reference and description) before making the call.

able to divert to a more urgent incident when the injured visitor's family said that they could take her to hospital.



**68. Aug. 14th Mon. 12.36 Nr Gaping Gill, Ingleborough**

The duty controller was contacted directly by an UWFR member at CPC's Gaping Gill winch meet. A walker (m, 60) had arrived there cold, wet and, subsequently, feeling faint. He was given shelter and treated for mild hypothermia with rewarming and food. When the casualty had recovered, he was walked down to Trow Gill and transferred, with his friends, to CRO 3. This took them to their own car in Clapham.

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**69. Aug. 16th Wed. 12.35 Nr Gaping Gill, Ingleborough**

A walker (m, 24) had gone for a walk up Ingleborough from the CPC winch meet but returned, complaining of pain in his leg such that he could not put weight on it. A small team went in CRO 4 to assess the casualty and others stood-by in vehicles near Ingleborough Cave in case a stretcher was needed. After assessment and pain relief, the casualty was able to walk the short distance back to CRO 4 for the drive down to Clapham.



**70. Aug. 19th Sat. 12.13 A field off High Hill Lane, Settle**

A couple were walking on the field path from Lambert Lane to Upper Settle, with their dogs, when a group of young cattle began running towards them. The walkers scrambled into a different field to avoid the beasts, but the man (53) fell and sustained a knee injury, so that he could not walk. YAS paramedics attended, giving pain relief and splinting the injured leg but were unable to move the casualty. Team members used a Titan stretcher to lift the man over a wall and to the road ambulance for the journey to hospital.



**71. Aug. 27th Sun. 10.36 Clapham Area**

NYP asked CRO to assist with a search in the Clapham area for a missing person, believed to be at risk. Following an extensive search, team members found the missing person, sadly deceased. **FATAL**



**72. Aug. 28th Mon. 18.47 Fluted Hole, Newby Moss, Newby**

A walker reported that a lamb was stranded in the bottom of Fluted Hole on the South side of Ingleborough. A small team set off in CRO 4 but came to a sudden halt in a grip (drain) cunningly concealed under vegetation. The following day, they returned, on foot, with a larger group of members, succeeding in recovering the vehicle and rescuing the lamb, which was returned to the farm.



**73. Aug. 31st Thu. 13.37 Top of Malham Cove**

A visitor (f, 69), with a known medical condition,

climbed the steps at the side of Malham Cove, but collapsed on reaching the top. When team members arrived, she had recovered significantly. After assessment by YAS paramedics, the patient was carried by stretcher to an air ambulance which flew her down to Malham for transfer to a road ambulance and the journey to hospital for further assessment.

**SEPTEMBER**



**74. Sep. 1st Fri. 16.21 Path near Beezley Falls, Ingleton**

A visitor (m, 48), sustained an ankle injury such that he could not put weight on it, following a slip on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail near Beezley Falls. He phoned for an ambulance, but some time later a more experienced walker advised that he should have asked for his 999 call to go to the Police and they should be asked for Mountain Rescue. She then did this on his behalf. Team members assessed, then splinted the injured leg before carrying the casualty, by stretcher, a short distance to a more accessible place, arriving for the hand-over at precisely the same time as the YAS road ambulance.



**75. Sep. 2nd Sat. 01.31 Clapham**

NYP asked for CRO's assistance with a search in the Clapham area for a missing person who might be at risk. The misper was soon found, unharmed, and team vehicles transported all involved down to CRO Base.



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**76. (same day) 15.56 Foot of Malham Cove**

A visitor (f, 78) suffered a medical event near the foot of Malham Cove. YAS asked CRO to assist and CRO 2 reached the casualty site very soon after the paramedics began their assessment of the patient. She seemed to be improving, so was assisted to CRO 2 then transferred to the road ambulance near Town Head Farm. After further assessment by the paramedics, the patient re-joined family and friends in their car to visit a hospital nearer home as a precaution. Members in CRO 3 were stuck in heavy traffic which was attempting (very nervously and in both directions) to pass a stranded, damaged car, South of Kirkby Malham School. Thus, the patient was in the ambulance when they arrived.



'I'm sure I heard a lamb here, somewhere.'



**77. Sep. 3rd Sun. 15.37 Nr Harry Horse Stone, Newby Moss**

A walker told the police that he had tried to pull a sheep out of a bog near Harry Horse Stone, but succeeded only in pulling himself in. A small team turned out but found only a particularly muddy sheep, nearby, concluding that it had escaped. Then a team member heard a faint bleating coming from a hidden hole in the side of a shake-hole. The sheep that was stuck there was rescued fairly easily and turned out onto the fell.



**78. Sep. 10th Sun. 12.10 Barbondale Gorge, Barbon, Cumbria**

A walker (f, 46) who had slipped while scrambling in Barbondale Gorge, injured her right lower leg. Team members assessed the casualty, who was at an awkward location in the gorge, administering pain relief and splinting her leg. She was lifted out of the gorge on a Bell stretcher and taken down to the road for hand-over to NWAS.

**LIKE A LOOK AROUND? YOU'RE WELCOME!**

If you have a group of people who are interested in finding out what we do, in learning more about safety in the area or how to call for help, we'll be pleased to meet them at CRO Base, in Clapham. Any age or background will be welcome,

provided that you give reasonable notice and tell us a bit about your group in an email to **secretary@cro.org.uk.**



**79. Sep. 14th Thu. 13.39 Dean Moor, Malham Moor**

A walker (f, 61) put her boot into a narrow gap between rocks, then slipped, breaking the ankle, on a path from the head of Watlowes ('The Dry Valley') to Water Sinks, South of Malham Tarn. YAA arrived first and its paramedics treated the extremely painful, open fracture. Team members helped lift the casualty onto a scoop stretcher, then carried her to the helicopter for the flight to hospital. CRO 3 took the casualty's companions to their car at Water Sinks Gate.

**80. Sep. 15th Fri. 13.16 Grain Ings, Whernside, Ingleton**

A walker (m, 60) was reported to be experiencing such pain in the area of his kidneys that he could not continue on the path up Whernside. While team members were en route to Blea Moor, the air ambulance flew in and its paramedics treated the patient before he was flown to Ribblesdale for transfer to a road ambulance.

**81. Sep. 16th Sat. 13.56 81. On descent from Pen y ghent to Brackenbottom**

A walker (f, 48) twisted an ankle very badly while descending the upper tier of rock at 'the sharp end' of Pen y ghent, so that she was unable to continue. With the cloud base at about 530m (the level of the junction of the Dale Head and Brackenbottom paths), faster team members ran up to assess the casualty and provide re-assurance for the family group, while other members carried up equipment. Having been

given pain relief and having her leg splinted, the casualty was put onto a Bell stretcher to be sledged down the first part of the descent. A wheel was then attached for the 'carry' down to CRO 3, waiting at Churn Milk Hole. This took her to the road ambulance waiting near Dale Head. After assessment by YAS paramedics, the patient was taken round to Horton to be re-united with her family (They had walked down via Brackenbottom.) and a decision on further transport.

**Alert only. Sep. 18th Mon. 17.02 Ingleborough**

A long-distance caller reported that her partner — a 40-year old, competent, experienced and well-equipped fell-walker — having walked over Whernside, had phoned from Ingleborough to say that the weather was such that he was abandoning his Three Peaks walk and returning to his car at Ribblesdale. She had heard nothing more and had been unable to contact him in the past six hours.

With the team on stand-by, the duty controller asked one member to go look for the walker's car, but it was not found near Ribblesdale or Chapel-le-dale. NYP received information from a police force in the home counties suggesting that the car had been seen in its area and when the duty controller phoned the informant again, she told him that her partner had, just that minute, walked in the door at their home (to a warm welcome, no doubt!).

**82. Sep. 23rd Sat. 22.50 Lost John's Cavern, Leck Fell, Leck, Lancashire**

The duty controller was alerted by an UWFRA member who had been caving with a group of friends. He said that four cavers were overdue in the Lost John's Cavern system, possibly near Lyle Cavern. He also said that a group of competent cavers from RRCPC, equipped with food, drinks and other vital kit, had descended

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the system to try to find the missing party. Although he was confident they would be found quickly it was thought wise to put the team on stand-by. After about two hours, the underground search party had not returned to the surface, so a full call-out was instigated. As members were en-route to Leck Fell, a member of the search party reached the surface and advised that the missing cavers had been found safe and well. They had simply lost their way in what is a complex section of cave. They were escorted back to the surface by the search party, so the team stood down at 01.30.

**83. Sep. 30th Sat. 17.17 Chapel le Dale, Ingleton**

A group of walkers (2f, 3m, 30s) set off up Ingleborough from near Chapel-le-Dale. One member turned back from Humphrey Bottom, but called NYP, later, when she received a message from the others saying that they were lost. As a small CRO team met her to get further information, the other members of the group turned up safe and well.

## OCTOBER

**Oct. 1st Sun. 07.35 Alert only. Settle/ Giggleswick area**

NYP asked for CRO's advice and technical assistance in locating two relatively inexperienced campers (m, 18) in the Settle area. They had phoned a parent at 01.32 to say that they were very cold and could they be picked up in Settle? At 03.00, the parent had arrived in Settle but had been unable to find or phone them. The CRO duty controller was alerted at 07.35 and, after making enquiries, he sent PhoneFind messages to both mispers' phones at 07.50, with no immediate effect. At 08.14, the system

suddenly showed that the PhoneFind message had been delivered, but not acted on. At least this showed that a phone might now be accessible, so he phoned the pair who said they were safe and near Lord's Wood, Giggleswick. Parent and mispers were put in touch and the 'incident' closed. A learning opportunity.

**Oct. 2nd Mon. 16.33 Alert only. Ingleton Waterfalls Trail**

A well-intentioned walker expressed the concern of several visitors that an 'elderly' couple were struggling on the return leg of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail and believed that one of the pair may have had a fall, already. When the CRO duty controller asked team members to show their availability for a local search, one gave a description of two people he had seen returning to their car and driving away. The description was sufficient to cause the team to be stood down, without further investigation.

**84. Oct. 15th Sun. 11.43 Pecca Bridge, Thornton in Lonsdale**

A visitor (m, 80) was reported to have collapsed

**We're all in favour of self-rescue** outdoors people are supposed to be self-reliant — but if you call for help, then escape the situation or are helped by passers-by, please do have the courtesy to call 999 again to stand us down. **No-one likes to be taken for granted!**

near Pecca Bridge on the outward leg of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. Both CRO and YAA responded and after assessment by the team's doctor, followed by being given sugary sweets, the casualty was stretchered up to CRO 3 (The helicopter had been called away to a higher priority incident.). After a further check-up, the casualty was driven to his holiday accommodation where YAS paramedics would be able to assess him using equipment from their road ambulance.

**Alert only. Oct. 19th Thu. 15.35 North Yorkshire**

NYLRF shared a serious flood alert with all of the county's SAR teams and held an on-line discussion to plan for any necessary action. Rainfall and water levels were monitored, but the risk appeared to be less than anticipated. The Silver-level alert was cancelled on Saturday.

**85. Oct. 22nd Sun. 14.58 Cow Close (Nr Winskill Stones), Langcliffe**

YAS requested CRO's assistance with a casualty (f, 38) who had reportedly injured her ankle and was unable to walk between Winskill Stones and Jubilee Cave. When the YAS paramedics and the first CRO members reached the casualty's supposed location, no-one was there. A call to the reporting person revealed that they were already at a hospital. The reporting person was, accordingly, given advice on the courtesies of calling the emergency services.

**Alert only. Oct. 28th Sat. 20.10 Lancaster Hole to Wretched Rabbit, Casterton, Cumbria**

A party of five cavers was reported 'overdue' from a trip through the Easegill ('Three Counties') system from Lancaster Hole to Wretched Rabbit. The alert was very soon rescinded after a member of the party ran back to Bull Pot Farm to delay the call-out time to 23.00.

**NOVEMBER**

**86. Nov. 24th Fri. 11.42 Middle High Hill, Settle**

A walker (f, 62) fell on the steep and slippery path above Banks Lane, Settle, injuring her lower right leg. Team members assessed the casualty and splinted her injured leg before stretchering her to

CRO 3 for the drive down to Settle and hand-over to YAS and YAA paramedics.



**DECEMBER**

**Erroneous Alert. Dec 2nd Sat. 16.38 Airton or Cross Fell?**

Occasionally an MRT may receive a call which should have gone to a different (usually neighbouring) team. This is 'no big deal' – the call is handed on and CRO would not record it. However, this one was a little odd. YAS called CRO to a walker with a suspected broken ankle, near Airton, but said that the Penrith team was on its way. Curiosity aroused, the CRO duty controller checked and found that Penrith MRT was dealing with someone of a similar description on Cross Fell, Cumbria. Further investigation showed that an initial call had gone to Penrith via NWS, but a second call had, by a quirk of the mobile phone system, gone to YAS, who called CRO. To compound the issue, the words used to give the Cumbria location could be mis-spelled to give the Malhamdale location. Most MRTs would choose a grid reference, any day!

**87. Dec. 3rd Sun. 15.12 Yordas Wood, Thornton in Lonsdale**

A caver (f, 22) fell on her way to Yordas Cave

**Thanks to our Contributors:**  
 Alison Haigh, Andy Colau, AN Other, Dave Gregory, Jake Stapleton, Jon Beavan, Jo Wulf, Julian Leader, Martin Holroyd, Mike Evans, Paul Moore, Phil James, Phil Nuttall and his brother, Rae Lonsdale, Simon Oxley and apologies to anyone omitted by accident.

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and lost consciousness. In snowy conditions, the team assisted YAS with treating the now-conscious but mildly hypothermic casualty. She was placed in a warm casualty bag on a Bell stretcher which was quickly sledged over the snow to the road ambulance.



**Alert only. (same day) 17.15 Malham Tarn area, Malham Moor**

As equipment was being cleaned after Incident 87, a call was received from NYP concerning the non-return of a group of walkers in the Malham Tarn area. However, the duty controller was soon able to confirm that all were accounted for and safe.

**88. Dec. 16th Sat. 16.45 Malham Cove**

A visitor (m, 25) tripped and dislocated a knee on the top of Malham Cove. As the team was en route YAA landed close to the casualty site. Paramedics treated the casualty before he was flown down to Malham, where team members had identified a landing zone and were able to assist in transferring him to a road ambulance.

**89. Dec. 17th Sun. 12.15 Norber Scar, Crummockdale, Austwick**

Friends of an injured fell-runner (m, 51) alerted CRO to the fact that he had slipped and injured an ankle. Fortunately a team member was able to provide initial assistance. Called officially by NYP, team members splinted the runner's ankle and put him in an insulated casualty bag. CRO 4 was driven to the casualty site, with the kind permission of the farmer at Crummock Farm.



The Honda then took him to a friend's house, from where his wife took him to hospital. Unfortunately, a fracture was confirmed.

**Alert only. Dec.29th Fri. 15.54 Ribbleshead area, Ingleton**

A walker (f, 42) was reported missing in the Ribbleshead area but turned up, safe and well, as preliminary enquiries were being made.



## Mountain Rescue Search Dogs (England)



In England and Wales, anyone wishing to begin to train, qualify and run a search dog, must first be an operational member of a recognised search and rescue team. Training and assessment are very thorough and cannot even begin until the young dog has demonstrated, unequivocally, that it takes no notice of sheep. One CRO member works with his search dog, training every week over a mix of terrain, thanks to the agreement of several local farmers and the support (by getting 'lost!') of a number of dogs' bodies.

Kez (right) and her handler were called out eight times outside the CRO core area in 2023. Read more at [www.mountainrescuerearchdogsgengland.org.uk](http://www.mountainrescuerearchdogsgengland.org.uk)



### 10th October (03.30) – UWFRA – Grassington, North Yorkshire

Assisted in search for a vulnerable woman, missing from home after her car was found in Grassington. Searched downstream from Grassington Bridge, but UWFRA members found the misper in the village before handing her over to a YAS ambulance crew.

### 6th November (11.00) – BPMRT – Beacon Country Park, Skelmersdale, Lancashire

Assisted in search of woodland and heath for a vulnerable man (77) missing from home, overnight. Not found.

### 23rd November (16.22) – RPMRT – Pendle Hill, Lancashire

Called to assist in the search for a boy (12) lost on Pendle Hill. Stood down en route when LanCon located him in Clitheroe.

### 25th November (12.00) – UWFRA – Skipton Woods, Skipton, North Yorkshire

Assisted in search for a vulnerable man, missing for four days. His phone had been pinged and showed its location as Skipton Woods. Area searched, unsuccessfully, until dark. Located, safe and well, some distance away, several days later.

### 31st December (09.00) – BPMRT – Blackpool area, Lancashire

Assisted in search of rough and sometimes very wet terrain for a vulnerable man (60), missing from a mental health hospital. Located in Manchester, the following week.

## Call-outs 2023

### 26th June (06.30) – BPMRT – Chorley area, Lancashire

Called to search woodland after a man (35) left a note of his intentions, but stood down when a family member found the man, deceased, in that woodland.

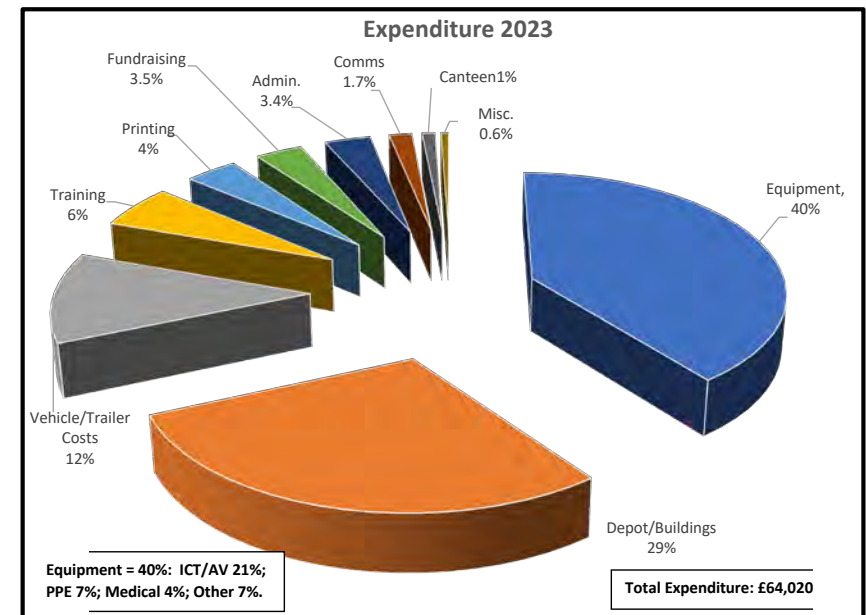
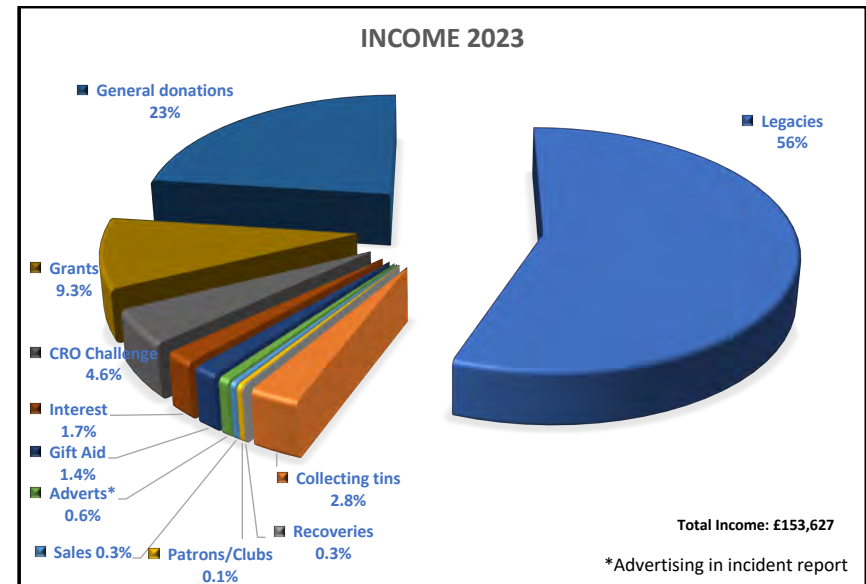
### 13th July (03.00) – KMRT – Scout Scar, Kendal, Cumbria

Extended the area which CumPol dogs and KMRT had searched earlier, without result, after a local woman did not return from a walk nor go to or return from work. On approaching the assigned area, Kez showed interest in the top edge of a (30m?) rock face but found nothing in the assigned area. Later, KMRT searched woodland below the rock face and found the misper. She had sustained a head injury and said she'd been out overnight, having crawled several hundred metres from her accident site.

### 4th August (10.45) – RPMRT – Hyndburn, Lancashire

Called to assist in search for a woman, believed to be at risk and missing overnight. Stood down en route when LanCon found the misper, deceased.

## Financial Summary 2023



This is a summary of CRO's income and expenditure for the year ending October 31st 2023. Income was so high, thanks to some remarkably generous legacies and donations, more than compensating from the deficit in 2022. However, vehicle replacement or major refurbishment is overdue. The Organisation's annual report and accounts may be read, in full, on the Charity Commission website at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission). Click on 'Search for a charity', then type 'Cave Rescue Organisation'.



# Cave and Mountain Rescue in the Yorkshire Dales, North Lancashire and SE Cumbria



## Incidents 2023

Numbers in brackets indicate fatalities

<b>Incidents</b>		<b>MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS</b>		<b>Since 1935, CRO has attended 3,511 incidents</b>	
Cave	4	Overdue	2	Cave	763
'Mountain'	67 (4)	Show cave - medical	1	Cave (assisted by divers)	10
walking	56 (3)	Fell in, taking photo	1	Cave diving	17
climbing	4 (1)			Disused mines	17
running	3	<b>Mountain incidents</b>		Other underground	1
caver on surface	1	Falls/slips		Mountain	1669
cycling	1	walking	26	Climbing	121
farm worker	1	climbing	3	Open water diving	11
paragliding	1	fell-running	2	Animal - surface	177
Animal	10	taking photo	1	- underground	339
Local incidents	8 (3)	Benighted/lost/overdue	7	CRO / MRSDE dogs and handlers searching in other teams' areas	247
<b>Main team total</b>	<b>89 (7)</b>	Medical event	11 (4)	Local/urban/tarmac Incidents	137
CRO handler/dog assisting other teams	8	Exhausted/cold/wet	10	'Stand-by' calls are not counted.	
		Crag-fast/stranded	1		
		Paraglider landed badly	1		
		Stuck in bog	1		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>				
People involved (CRO area only)	103	<b>Local incidents</b>		<b>This has involved 4,843 people (aged 5 months to 87 years), 524 sheep/lambs, 91 dogs, 13 calves, 9 cows, 1 bullock, 1 Highland heifer, 1 cat and 1 rabbit plus a wide variety of objects.</b>	
Sheep/lambs	10	Assist Ambulance			
Dogs	2	Farm worker (collapse)	1		
<b>Stand-by/Alert calls</b>	<b>13</b>	Assist Police			
		Search for misper	5 (2)		
		Recover deceased	1 (1)		
		Car stranded in snow	1		

Summary of Statistics					
Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total incidents attended	97 (7)	108 (3)	98(4)	100(3)	109(7)
Cave	4	8	4	6(1)	6(1)
Cave diving	0	0	0	1(1)	0
Mountain (except climbing)	63 (3)	66 (1)	64(1)	67(1)	81(6)
Climbing	4 (1)	3	4(1)	0	3
Animal	10	9	10	8	7
Local/urban/tarmac incidents	8 (3)	10 (2)	8(2)	5	3
CRO dogs + handlers assisting in other teams' areas	8	12	8	13	7

*There were no 'disused mines', 'cave diving', 'cave, assisted by divers', or 'open water diving' incidents in this five-year period.*

And finally, we'd like to thank all who have helped CRO in any way over the past year

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