



Rocky Mountain Rescue Group

2014 Operations Summary

	2014	Average		2014	Average
		2009-13			2009-13
Number of Calls	156	152	Number of Victims (all calls)	187	185
Types of Calls			Victims by MRA Code (all calls)		
Incident	63	57	Code 0 (Unable to locate, other)	1	10
Search	20	31	Code 1 (No assistance needed)	54	59
Rescue	73	61	Code 2A (Assisted, not evacuated)	76	57
Other	0	3	Code 2E (Evacuated)	43	49
			Code 4 (Deceased)	13	10
Calls by Jurisdiction			Victim's by Activity (all calls)		
Boulder County other	8	12	Aircraft Passenger	0	2
County Open Space	14	9	ATV	0	1
Eldorado Canyon State Park	11	12	Automobile	2	4
Indian Peaks Wilderness	20	11	Bicycling	11	9
City Mountain Parks –Open Space	70	63	Hang/ Para Gliding	0	0
National Forest	18	34	Horse riding	2	2
Out of county	8	7	Motorcycling	1	1
Rocky Mountain National Park	7	5	Hiking	109	101
			Hunting or Fishing	1	2
Calls By Month			Mountain Climbing	4	3
January	4	8	Rock Climbing	25	20
February	8	4	Scrambling	18	17
March	10	9	Snowmobiler	0	0
April	7	7	Ski, Snow Shoe, Snowboard	9	8
May	15	15			
June	17	20	Volunteer Hours(rounded)		
July	19	28	Calls, RMRG (Missions, Incidents)	4,000	5,000
August	21	24	Training (Field, Class, MRA, ICS)	8,000	8,000
September	20	15	Other (Safety Education, Truck		
October	14	11	Administrative, Testing, Maintenance)	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
November	10	5			
December	11	7	Total (rounded)	15,000	16,000

Evacuations Summary	Number of Missions		Annual Total Distance (meters, rounded)	
	2014	Average 2009-13	2014	Average 2009-13
Over-snow (includes as passenger)	2	3	200	9,000
Scree Down	25	24	5,000	6,000
Scree Uphaul	6	5	200	400
Trail	38	36	30,000	20,000
Tyrolean	1	2	30	60
Vertical Down	5	3	100	100

Notes:

Most of this summary is based on subjective evaluation of the best information available to RMRG at the time of writing. As time goes on, jurisdictions, communications and recording technologies, cultural expectations, etc. change. These notes explain some of the impacts of those changes on the numbers reported here. Terms of art are **bold**.

Average 2009-13 means the annual average over the five calendar years from 2009 through 2013.

Number of Calls includes pages for response by Rocky Mountain Rescue Group from the [Boulder County Communications Center \(BRCC\)](#), incidents where RMRG members happened across and assisted person(s) in distress in a field setting but no page was sent by BRCC, and variably scheduled RMRG first aid support events. Multi-day operations responding to the same incident are counted as one call. In 2014, RMRG had 4 calls with operations on two or more days.

Incidents are calls for RMRG assistance where RMRG does not “field” rescuers. RMRG may not reach a trail head before a reported missing party calls to report their return. Incidents also include calls where BRCC initially dispatches RMRG, but another agency subsequently determines RMRG services are not needed. E.g. a rock climbing accident on the Bastille formation in Eldorado Springs State Park, and the injured party is actually located on the road below the Bastille cliff. Most of these are designated “incidents.” If RMRG members happen to be close enough to assist an ambulance crew on such a call, the call is termed a (rescue) mission, even if BRCC issues a response cancellation page for RMRG. Incidents occasionally are lengthy and resource intensive.

Missions are calls where RMRG fields members to provide mountain search or rescue services beyond a trail head or drive to a location and perform [radio direction finding for a distress beacon](#). The mission/ incident designation may be ambiguous where four wheel drive routes are involved.

Searches are missions where the primary RMRG effort is searching for a missing party. Search efforts may lead to assistance to a person in distress. For the purposes of annual summary reports, missions are designated as EITHER searches OR rescues, not both. Where search efforts lead to providing assistance, the relative level of search effort versus assistance effort is the basis for designating the call as a **Search** or **Rescue**.

Rescues are missions where the primary RMRG effort involves assisting a party in distress. Assistance includes providing directions, rope assistance, first aid, medical care, evacuation or other assistance to a person in distress. Under RMRG management, other MRA teams volunteered over 1,000 hours to assist with September 11, 2013 flood response. These non-RMRG hours are NOT included in the **Volunteer Hours** reported.

Other are RMRG response activities that do not involve traditional mountain search and rescue. See also notes under **Number of Calls**. Although RMRG did provide first aid support to the 2014 Bolder Boulder race, that event was not recorded in the 2014 call log.

Jurisdiction denotes the primary land management jurisdiction for a given call. All calls are assigned one and only one jurisdiction, regardless of whether any call related operations that occur in secondary jurisdictions.

US Forest Service means calls within Boulder County, outside of **Indian Peaks Wilderness Area**.

Rocky Mountain National Park means calls within the Rocky Mountain National Park boundary, regardless of nominal county boundaries.

Out of County means outside of Boulder County or Rocky Mountain National Park. Out of County calls are only counted once as Out of County, regardless of any other land management jurisdiction.

[County Open Space](#) and [City Mountain Parks –Open Space](#) are the respective Boulder local jurisdictions.

Calls by Month includes all calls: **Incidents, Searches, Rescues and Other**.

Number of Victims (all calls) includes all persons RMRG was called to assist for all the incidents, searches, rescues, and other operations calls for the year. This number includes “MRA Code 0” parties, and persons assisted by other agencies where RMRG did not participate in the field operation.

Victims by MRA Code (all calls) is a tally of all persons RMRG was called to assist for all calls for the year. This number includes “MRA Code 0” parties, and persons assisted by other agencies where RMRG did not participate in the field operation. MRA is the [Mountain Rescue Association](#).

MRA Code 0 means that RMRG was not able to find a person in distress. This code is usually associated with **Incidents**, but occasionally RMRG is unable to find a missing person after extensive search efforts. As of 2014, RMRG records some calls as having “No known victims.” Previously, similar calls were counted as having a “Code 0” victim. Examples include flashing lights, rockfall, etc. reported as possible parties in distress. As of 2011, MRA Code 0 victims are NOT assigned a **Victim Activity** for purposes of the annual summary. 2010 and earlier, Code 0 victims were assigned a Victim Activity, and Code 0 victim activities are included in previous 5 year average values that include years 2010 and earlier.

MRA Code 1 means that RMRG or another agency found a reported missing person, but the person did not require any assistance. “I’m sorry my anxious relative called you, but the fishing is really good, and I don’t want to go home yet.”

MRA Code 2 means that RMRG or another agency assisted a person in distress.

MRA Code 2A means that the assistance provided did not include evacuating (carrying) the person from the field. Assistance may include directions, rope lowering, providing light, warm clothes, etc.

MRA Code 2E means that RMRG evacuated a person in distress to an ambulance, private vehicle, etc.

MRA Code 3 is not used.

MRA Code 4 means the subject of the call is deceased, whether RMRG or another agency responded to the call.

Victim Activities (all calls) is a tally of all persons RMRG was called to assist for all the calls for the year, EXCEPT MRA Code 0 “victims.” 2010 and earlier, Code 0 victims were assigned a Victim Activity, and Code 0 victim activities are included in previous 5 year average values. Persons are assigned one and only one activity for purposes of the annual summary. Activities have the common meaning with the following notes:

ATV means [All Terrain Vehicle](#).

Automobile means the person assisted was in a car or truck. Automobile includes jeeps.

Hiking includes both hiking with recreational intent, and persons walking without any other obvious purpose.

Hunting or Fishing includes specifically hunting or fishing, regardless of their mode of travel.

Mountain Climbing includes mountaineering, snow climbing, scrambling in an alpine setting, and occasionally trail based travel above timber line. Falling off the Keyhole Route on Long’s peak is counted as mountain climbing. Mountain climbing does NOT include any type of skiing or snow boarding, regardless of terrain.

Rock Climbing includes climbing cliffs with ropes, possibly in an alpine setting.

Scrambling includes pedestrian travel on terrain requiring the use of hands for progress. For purposes of this summary, scrambling includes [bouldering](#) and unroped solo rock climbing.

Hours are conservative estimates. For reasons specific to each category, reported hours are lower than actual volunteer hours worked. As an all volunteer organization, precise recording of volunteer hours is an administrative challenge .

Evacuations Summary numbers are precise in the number of missions where the listed evacuation technique was used. Evacuation distances are based on a combination of visual estimates and map measurements. All distances are in meters for table layout considerations.

Over-snow (includes as passenger) includes litter evacuation of a patient directly on snow, [towed behind a snowmobile on a litter sled](#), or the person riding on a snowmobile.

Scree Down means [belayed litter evacuation down a steep hill side](#).

Scree Uphaul is the opposite of “Scree Down” with the use of a hauling system usually with mechanical advantage to raise the litter patient and crew up a steep hill side.

Trail means [carrying a litter borne patient on a trail](#), with or without the litter wheel.

Tyrolean means “Tyrolean traverse” [using a tensioned high line to lift the litter borne patient over an obstacle](#).

Vertical Down usually means [lowering a litter borne patient in a horizontal position](#) down a cliff. Vertical down values also include tandem rappel or tragsitz evacuations of an injured patient down a cliff.