



# Rocky Mountain Rescue Group

## 2013 Operations Summary

	<b>2013</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>2013</b>	<b>Average</b>
		<b>2008-12</b>			<b>2008-12</b>
<b>Number of Calls</b>	162	142	<b>Number of Victims (all calls)</b>	204	179
<b>Types of Calls</b>			<b>Victims by MRA Code (all calls)</b>		
Incident	63	55	Code 0 (Unable to locate, other)	8	11
Search	26	30	Code 1 (No assistance needed)	76	57
Rescue	70	62	Code 2A (Assisted, not evacuated)	63	52
Other	3	3	Code 2E (Evacuated)	48	50
			Code 4 (Deceased)	9	10
<b>Calls by Jurisdiction</b>			<b>Victim's by Activity (all calls)</b>		
Boulder County other	22	9	Aircraft Passenger	0	2
County Open Space	11	10	ATV	0	1
Eldorado Canyon State Park	13	14	Automobile	2	4
Indian Peaks Wilderness	11	11	Bicycling	7	10
City Mountain Parks –Open Space	76	56	Hang/ Para Gliding	0	1
National Forest	23	36	Horse riding	2	2
Out of county	0	9	Motorcycling	1	1
Rocky Mountain National Park	6	4	Hiking	117	94
			Hunting or Fishing	1	2
<b>Calls By Month</b>			Mountain Climbing	3	3
January	11	8	Rock Climbing	20	21
February	3	5	Scrambling	18	18
March	11	8	Snowmobiler	0	1
April	7	7	Ski, Snow Shoe, Snowboard	4	9
May	14	15			
June	26	20	<b>Volunteer Hours(rounded)</b>		
July	25	28	Calls, RMRG (Missions, Incidents )	6,000	5,000
August	24	23	Training (Field, Class, MRA, ICS)	8,000	8,000
September	15	13	Other (Safety Education, Truck		
October	8	12	Administrative, Testing, Maintenance)	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
November	6	6			
December	12	5	<b>Total (rounded)</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>

Evacuations Summary	Number of Missions		Annual Total Distance (meters, rounded)	
	2013	Average 2008-12	2013	Average 2008-12
Over-snow (includes as passenger)	1	3	7,000	9,000
Scree Down	24	26	6,000	6,000
Scree Uphaul	8	6	600	400
Trail	29	38	20,000	20,000
Tyrolean	4	2	70	70
Vertical Down	2	3	40	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 2008-12** means the annual average over the five calendar years from 2008 through 2012.

**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 2013, RMRG's response to the September 11 flood is counted as one call, a rescue, despite several days of response operations including search efforts.

**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**. In 2013, Other calls included non-mountain rescue requests to support law enforcement.

**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 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 the 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.