Rocky Mountain Rescue Group

2011 Operations Summary

	2011	**Average 2006-10**
Number of Calls	146	141

Types of Calls

Incident	55	52
Search	23	21
Rescue	62	67
Other	6	1

Calls by Jurisdiction

Boulder County other	10	8
County Open Space	6	9
Eldorado Canyon State Park	14	15
Indian Peaks Wilderness	14	10
City Mountain Parks –Open Space	50	50
National Forest	36	36
Out of county	9	9
Rocky Mountain National Park	7	5

Calls By Month

January	7	8
February	1	5
March	5	7
April	5	7
May	13	15
June	16	18
July	27	25
August	24	20
September	23	12
October	15	11
November	5	8
December	5	5

	2011	**Average 2006-10**
Number of Victims (all calls)	175	164

Victims by MRA Code (all calls)

Code 0 (Unable to locate, other)	15	10
Code 1 (No assistance needed)	50	55
Code 2A (Assisted, not evacuated)	60	42
Code 2E (Evacuated)	43	47
Code 4 (Deceased)	7	10

Victim's by Activity (all calls)

Aircraft Passenger	0	1
ATV	4	2
Automobile	5	4
Bicycling	8	9
Hang/ Para Gliding	1	1
Horse riding	6	2
Motorcycling	1	2
Hiking	81	79
Hunting or Fishing	0	1
Mountain Climbing	6	3
Rock Climbing	31	21
Scrambling	10	13
Snowmobiler	1	1
Ski, Snow Shoe, Snowboard	6	9

Volunteer Hours (rounded)

Calls, RMRG (Missions, Incidents)	5,000	4,000
Training (Field, Class, MRA, ICS)	9,000	8,000
Other (Safety Education, Truck Administrative, Testing, Maintenance)	3,000	4,000
Total (rounded)	**17,000**	**16,000**

Evacuations Summary	Number of Missions		Annual Total Distance (meters, rounded)	
Technique	**2011**	**Average 2006-10**	**2011**	**Average 2006-10**
Over-snow (includes as passenger)	5	3	10,000	6,000
Scree Down	20	26	9,000	5,000
Scree Uphaul	3	7	400	300
Trail	30	34	20,000	30,000
Tyrolean	2	3	40	90
Vertical Down	3	3	140	70

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 **bolded.**

Average 2006-10: The annual average over the five years from 2006 through 2010.

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 (e.g. first aid assistance at the Bolder Boulder 10K race). In years past, race support events have been counted as "Other" calls. Most recently race support activities have not been recorded on the RMRG call log. Calls include **Incidents**, **Missions** and **Other.**

Incidents: 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: 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: 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: 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.

Other: RMRG response activities that do not involve traditional mountain search and rescue. See also notes under **Number of Calls**. In 2011, Other calls included several responses in anticipation of potential flooding in Four Mile Canyon.

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: Calls within Boulder County, outside of **Indian Peaks Wilderness Area**.

Rocky Mountain National Park: Calls within the Rocky Mountain National Park boundary, regardless of nominal county boundaries.

Out of County: Calls 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: I**ncidents, Searches, Rescues and Other**.

Number of Victims (all calls): 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): 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: 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: 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: RMRG or another agency provided assistance that did not include evacuating (carrying) the person from the field. Assistance may include directions, rope lowering, providing light, warm clothes, etc.

MRA Code 2E: RMRG or another agency evacuated a person in distress to an ambulance, private vehicle, etc.

MRA Code 3 is not used.

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

Victim Activities (all calls): 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: 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, scambling 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: [Belayed litter evacuation down a steep hill side](#).

Scree Uphaul: 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: [Carrying the litter borne patient on a trail](#), with or without the litter wheel.

Tyrolean: [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.