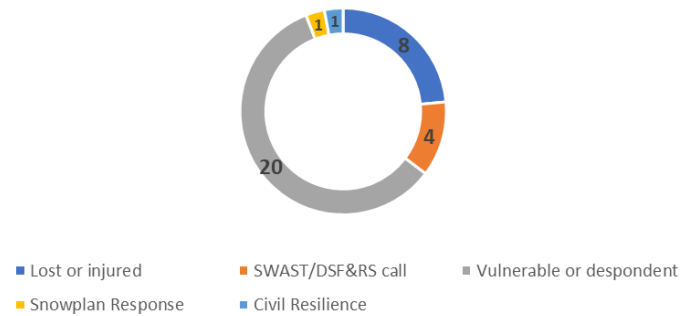


# CALLOUT REVIEW OF 2021



## Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Ashburton)

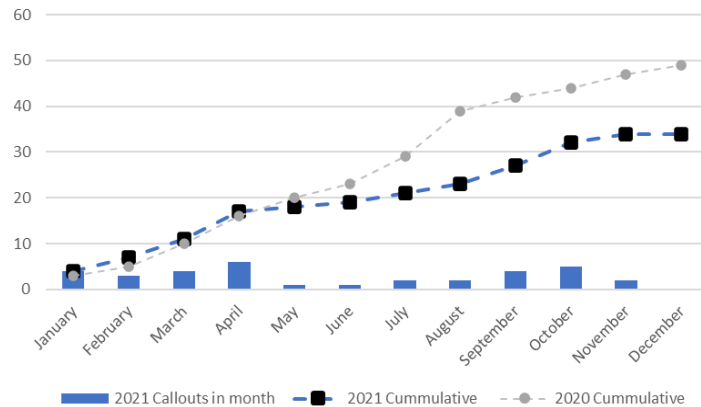
### Callout reason



We received 34 callouts in 2021, a 30% reduction on 2020 but back to our usual annual level. The 34 callouts resulted in 210 team hours being expended which is an average of 6 hours per callout. This equates to 2,481 volunteer rescuer hours over the year. Looking at the callouts reasons:

- 20 were to assist Devon and Cornwall Police in locating vulnerable or despondent individuals.
- 8 were for us to look for those who were lost or injured.
- 4 were to assist the South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) or Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue (DSF&R).
- 1 was in response to extreme weather; a snow incident.
- 1 was providing support to Devon and Cornwall Police in evacuating an area of Exeter due to an unexploded WW2 bomb.

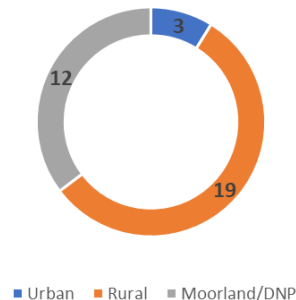
### Callouts per month



On examining the callouts on a month by month basis:

- In the first four months of 2021 we had the same number of callouts as we had in the same period in 2020.
- January to April and September and October were our busiest months.
- We averaged just under 3 callouts per month over the year.
- April was our busiest month with 6 callouts.
- Our last and 34th callout of 2021 was on 19<sup>th</sup> November.
- We were contacted 64 times by Devon and Cornwall Police during the year which resulted in 34 callouts. In 2020, 66 calls from the Police resulted in 49 callouts.

### Callout locations



Of our 34 callouts in 2021:

- 19 were in a rural environment in Devon.
- 12 were in the Dartmoor National Park (DNP).
- 3 were in an urban setting.

### ABOUT US

We are a Devon charity of 60 volunteers on call 24/7 dedicated to assisting the emergency services with the search and rescue of the lost, missing, injured and vulnerable including those with dementia, mental health illnesses and children.

Without volunteer search and rescue teams like us, the emergency services would not have the resources to devote to the search and rescue of missing or injured loved ones.

# CALLOUT REVIEW OF 2021

## Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Ashburton)



### 2021 (34 callouts)

Despite the Covid pandemic, the team has remained operational throughout 2021. During the year team members used PPE and modified operating procedures to minimise the risk of infection.

Throughout the year the team assisted all three emergency services, NHS, HM Coastguard and our sister teams across Devon & Cornwall. Our specialist water and rope teams also assisted in a number of difficult incidents.

First callout of 2021 was at 2am on 3<sup>rd</sup> January for a person wild camping in the Hound Tor area who had failed to check in as planned with his partner. As the temperature that morning was below freezing, DSRT Ashburton and coastguard helicopter were deployed in the search. After searching for several hours he was found safe and well by team members.

Later in January we assisted the emergency services and Devon & Cornwall Police with their emergency snow plan that saw many roads impassable. During the early hours of the morning our 4x4 land rovers and team members assisted when a gritting vehicle overturned.

In 2021, more than half of our callouts involved searches for missing or despondent individuals. Many of these searches lasted several days and involved multi-agency responses.

Alongside our sister teams we assisted Devon & Cornwall Police in the evacuation of a residential area of Exeter where an unexploded WW2 bomb had been discovered, a new first for the team.

Another first for the team occurred during the search for a potentially injured individual near the Mamhead viewpoint. The alarm was raised when the individual and their dog had been reported missing in dark steep ground near the viewpoint. The team quickly found the walker who had become lost in steep woodland and assisted them to an ambulance for further assessment. The team then searched for and found his missing dog, a 25kg collie, which had become trapped in dense undergrowth and reunited it with a very grateful owner. Although we are an organisation which is focussed on saving human lives we were pleased, on this occasion, to be able to offer assistance in looking for individual's dog.

During 2021 team members trained as much as possible but there were times when this was impossible due to covid restrictions.

Because of the pandemic we could only hold one fundraising event. As a charity, fundraising is critical to us we hope that in 2022 we will be able hold more fundraising events to help us raise the much needed funds we need to remain operational.

We continue to rely on our incredible volunteers to drop everything, at any time of the day or night, in all weathers to search for lost, injured or vulnerable individuals.