

Contacting Mountain Rescue in an emergency

Following the need in July 2016 to call the Mountain Rescue following a recent walking accident to one of our members (though not on one of our walks) our Chairman has been made aware of a new way of contacting the emergency services by a "TEXT" message rather than a normal voice call. A TEXT message is much more likely to get through than a normal voice 999 call in poor signal areas.

You need to register your phone details beforehand to use this service, though this is easy to do.

If you are interested, details of how to do this are shown below, together with a link to a website that gives a lot more detail including an explanatory video.

A scheme run by the major mobile phone providers and the Emergency Services with the UK Government's support, although originally conceived for people with hearing difficulties, has major benefits for outdoor enthusiasts.

Carrying a mobile phone to contact Mountain Rescue in case of an accident is an insurance that most of us who spend time in the hills take. However, because of the remote areas we tend to seek out, more often than not, signal quality is poor or even non-existent. Often the only point where you'll get decent enough reception to make an intelligible call is on the very tops. Not much use if you're floundering on the hill's flank with a busted leg. With the new scheme it's now possible to text the emergency services and, as Mountain Rescue Teams are mobilised by the police, even the weakest signal will now be enough to get your SOS message out there and help on its way.

You do need to register your phone but this is an incredibly quick and easy procedure. Simply text "register" to 999. You'll then get a reply giving some instructions and outlining the service. Reply back to this with "yes" and the job's done. All in all, it'll probably take two minutes. Remember that it's the phone that's registered not the user so, if you tend to take your battered old mobile into the hills, then that's the one you need to register.

Don't put off registering your phone until you need the service for real, do it right now and don't get caught out.

For more information follow this link [Emergency Calls by Text](#)