



Review of UK Search & Rescue (SAR)
Helicopter Provision and Coverage Criteria
Report - June 2001
Maritime & Coastguard Agency & Ministry of Defence

Report title:**Review of UK Search & Rescue Helicopter Provision and Coverage Criteria Report**

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Abstract:

This report summarises a risk assessment of UK Search & Rescue (SAR) Helicopter provision within the UKSRR. An assessment has been carried out based on incidents that have taken place in the UKSRR over a 3-year period; in total 42,000 incidents. This includes over 30,000 incidents which have taken place in the maritime environment (as recorded by the Coastguard in their CMIS database) and overland incident data as recorded by the MoD (for incidents involving MoD SAR resources) and incidents recorded by the Mountain Rescue Council for England and Wales and the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland.

An analysis of the incident data identifies the highest risk areas based on the frequency of all incidents and not just those involving SAR helicopters. The results of the assessment show that the highest risk areas are generally in the immediate vicinity of the coastline and mainly along the south coast of the UK.

On identifying the risk levels of different areas, the coverage provided by the existing 12 SAR helicopter bases has been evaluated in terms of the average and maximum times to get to the different areas, with the results then evaluated against the amended SAR helicopter criteria, modified by the Helicopter Provision Working Group.

A model has been developed based on calculating the distance/time to each incident from different helicopter bases to enable an assessment of moving bases to be carried out.

The results of the evaluation show that the current basing arrangements in the UK meet the criteria set down and no modifications are proposed based on this evaluation. A number of observations are made which should be considered for future reviews.

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Risk

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