
**GALLOWAY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM
PRESS RELEASE**

Incident on Screel Hill – Sunday 15th March 2009

A 58 year old woman walking on the popular route on Screel Hill near Castle Douglas on Sunday 15th March 2009, slipped and broke her ankle. The accident resulted in the attendance of members of Galloway Mountain Rescue Team, Royal Navy Rescue 177 helicopter from HMS Gannet, the Scottish Air Ambulance and local Ambulance Paramedics.

Thirteen members of Galloway MRT, many of whom had been on a training exercise near Gatehouse of Fleet, attended when the alarm was raised around 10:00am. The casualty was located near the southern summit of the hill and because of the location Rescue 177 was called from Prestwick. The air ambulance was on scene but the aircraft is not equipped with winching facilities.

David Tyson, Training Officer with Galloway MRT was one of the first rescuers on scene, he said:

“This was a great example of the emergency services working together to decide upon the safest and most comfortable way to remove the injured woman from the hill. We were on scene around 10:30am but because of conditions underfoot and the terrain the best option was to call upon Rescue 177 for a winch. When they arrived we had to use a technique known as a highline to safely lower and raise the winch man and casualty to and from the aircraft. This involves team work between the MRT and air crew aboard the aircraft.”

The injured woman was subsequently removed by Rescue 177 to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary about 11:30am.

Find out about the activities of Galloway MRT; callouts, weather forecasts, walk routes, training and much more, on our website at <http://www.gallowaymrt.org.uk>.