

12 May 2026

Harwood Wilson
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Dear Harwood

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 15 April 2026. You requested information regarding High Angle Rescue Calls:

Please provide the following information regarding high angle / lines rescue calls during the period 1 March 2025 to 31 March 2026.

- 1. The number of calls received for such rescues (by region)*
- 2. The details of calls in which police responded to these rescues, being data on the locality for the incident, the time in which the call was received, time in which the first police unit arrived and time in which the call was resulted or the last unit departed (whichever occurred first)*
- 3. The number of staff (by region) employed by Police who hold qualifications for high angle or lines rescue.*
- 4. Any police briefings, memo's or policy's around police attendance and performance at such rescues*

The below information has been collated in response to each part of your request.

- 1. The number of calls received for such rescues (by region)*

A search of the SARdonyx database which houses reporting from all Search and Rescue incidents has identified a total of eight Category 1 Police coordinated SAR events nationally that have involved a technical rope, specialist rescue technique over the period 1 March 2025 - 31 March 2026.

The regional breakdown is as follows:

- 1 x Waikato Police District
- 2 x Wellington Police District
- 1 x Southern Police District
- 1 x Waitemata Police District
- 2 x Auckland City Police District
- 1 x Bay of Plenty Police District

- 2. The details of calls in which police responded to these rescues, being data on the locality for the incident, the time in which the call was received, time in which the first police unit arrived and time in which the call was resulted or the last unit departed (whichever occurred first).*

Please refer to the below table.

Time in which the call was received	Time in which the first police unit arrived	Time in which the call was resulted	SAR category OR non-SAR activity type	Responding Police District	Location: Incident location
22/01/2026 20:57	22/01/2026 21:21	23/01/2026 17:18	Category 1 SAR	Waikato District	Te Tote gorge Raglan
18/01/2026 17:21	18/01/2026 17:24	18/01/2026 20:15	Category 1 SAR	Waitematā District	Takapuna
19/12/2025 0:41	19/12/2025 0:44	19/12/2025 6:33	Category 1 SAR	Southern District	Arthurs Point, Queenstown
12/11/2025 21:19	12/11/2025 21:57	18/11/2025 10:35	Category 1 SAR	Wellington District	Birchville, Upper Hutt
28/06/2025 21:17	28/06/2025 21:18	29/06/2025 0:57	Category 1 SAR	Auckland City District	Glendowie
21/06/2025 23:57	22/06/2025 0:05	23/06/2025 3:04	Category 1 SAR	Bay of Plenty District	Taupo Lakefront
29/04/2025 18:50	29/04/2025 18:50	30/04/2025 7:05	Category 1 SAR	Auckland City District	Blind Bay, Great Barrier Island
5/05/2025 13:03	5/05/2025 13:18	8/05/2025 18:09	Category 1 SAR	Wellington District	Waipoua River (Reserve) Masterton

3. The number of staff (by region) employed by Police who hold qualifications for high angle or lines rescue.

We have identified eight qualified members within Police who are engaged in SAR squad roles and could reasonably be called upon to support technical rope rescue / high angle or line rescue. They are based in Tamaki Makaurau and Southland.

4. Any police briefings, memo's or policy's around police attendance and performance at such rescues

Police does not hold briefings, memos or policies specifically relating to Police attendance and performance at such rescues. Police operates in coordination with sector partners and in line with the NZSAR operational framework. More information relating to the NZSAR operational framework can be found here:

<https://www.nzsar.govt.nz/assets/Downloadable-Files/Operational-Framework-for-the-NZSRR-4th-Edition-August-2022-v2.pdf>.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively release some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Iain Chapman
Director - Deployment
New Zealand Police