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TA 20130912 summer stats east

Lifesaving statistics show a busy summer 2013 for RNLI's lifeboat crews and lifeguards

The charity that saves lives at sea around the coastline of the east of England has experienced another busy summer period of rescues, as evidenced by figures released today.

Statistics issued by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution showed lifeboats from 15 stations in the east coast of England* launched a total 319 times between June and August 2013. This represents a very small drop of just 4.7 per cent from the 335 launches recorded in 2012.

In addition, the charity's lifeguards, which operate on 15 beaches in the east of England**, were kept busy as they responded to 904 incidents during the 2013 summer season.

Altogether the statistics amount to yet another incredibly busy summer of saving lives from the beach to the open sea for the RNLI's hundreds of volunteer lifeboat crew members and paid and volunteer lifeguards.

The east coast was home to the busiest coastal lifeboat station around the RNLI's entire UK and Republic of Ireland network: Southend-on-Sea in Essex launched 104 times between June and August, compared to 80 launches the previous year. The only stations to launch more times in the summer were two on the River Thames in central London.

Harwich RNLI were also very busy – their volunteer crew launched 46 times in the summer, up on the 43 launches in summer 2012. And completing a hat trick for Essex stations, the third busiest on the east coast was Clacton-on-Sea, also in Essex. They launched 33 times, an increase on the 21 launches the previous year.

Altogether lifeboats in Norfolk carried out 66 launches, Suffolk lifeboats launched 24 times, and in Essex they launched 229 times.

Andrew Ashton, RNLI Regional Operations Manager, said: 'Yet again 2013 has been busy for our volunteer lifeboat crew members and lifeguards. We had some really lovely sunny days this summer – temperatures in the 30s in some places - so it's hardly surprising we were called out to so many incidents.

'Despite the small decrease in lifeboat activity in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, overall for the RNLI it has been the busiest summer for 24 years, with a total of 4,300 lifeboat launches across the charity.

The summer was also populated by a number of notable rescues around the region, for example:

- Hunstanton RNLI's dramatic rescue of two young girls who were close to drowning after being caught out by the tide and left clinging to a marker buoy
- Lifeguards assisting a man who had collapsed on the beach in Cromer
- An extremely busy bank holiday Monday for Norfolk's lifeguards, who carried out six water rescues, saved two lives, and did five major first aids on one beach alone.
- Southend-on-Sea lifeboat rescued two young girls drifting out to sea on inflatable lilos, as well as their mother who was attempting to save them.
- The rescue of two adults and five children by Wells RNLI who were cut off by the tide
- Cromer RNLI lifeguards rescuing two girls who were caught in a strong current while swimming and dragged dangerously close to the pier
- Happisburgh lifeboat crew's search for two diver missing off a dive boat in foggy conditions
- Lowestoft RNLI assisting the crew of a yacht which was stranded in the middle of a busy shipping lane after a fuel problem

Andrew added: 'The busy summer season highlights once again the importance of the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which remains a charity and relies entirely on voluntary contributions to run its lifeboats. It is only through donations and support from the public that the charity was able to launch lifeboats or carry out lifeguard rescues.'

Ends

Notes to editors

* There are 15 lifeboat stations on the east coast, namely Hunstanton, Wells, Sheringham, Cromer, Happisburgh, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, Lowestoft, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Harwich, Walton and Frinton, Clacton-on-Sea, West Mersea, Burnham-on-Crouch, Southend-on-Sea.

** RNLI lifeguards operate on 15 beaches on the east coast of England: Sheringham, East Runton, Cromer West, Cromer East, Mundesley, Sea Palling, Hemsby, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Lowestoft North, Lowestoft South, Southwold, Mablethorpe, Skegness and Sutton-On-Sea. Individual beach statistics will be available with the end-of-year statistics in January 2014.

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RNLI online: For more information on the RNLI please visit <http://www.rnli.org/>. News releases and other media resources, including [RSS feeds](#), downloadable photos and video, are available at the [RNLI News Centre](#).

Key facts about the RNLI: The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is the charity that saves lives at sea. Our volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service in

the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland from 236 lifeboat stations, including four along the River Thames and inland lifeboat stations at Loch Ness, Lough Derg, Enniskillen and Lough Ree. Additionally the RNLi has more than 1,000 lifeguards on over 180 beaches around the UK and operates a specialist flood rescue team, which can respond anywhere across the UK and Ireland when inland flooding puts lives at risk.

A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736).
Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland.