

Sunday 9th August, 2015.

For immediate release

Third Day Of Launches For Southend RNLI Volunteer Lifeboat Crews

With the hot weather prevailing, Southend's Lifeboat crews were kept busy for the third day running, with the search and rescue hovercraft and Atlantic 75 lifeboat responding to calls.

The first call of the day came at 16.35hrs with the hovercraft being launched from the inshore boathouse by crews already on station as part of their "summer duties" to reports of persons in danger of being cut off by the incoming tide near to The Boom at Shoebury's East Beach.

On-route the hovercraft crew spotted two men chest deep in water approx. a mile out from shore, near to the pier head. The two were taken aboard the hovercraft, given safety advice and safely ferried back to shore at the Halfway House Slipway.

During this time, Southend Lifeboat which had been out on exercise, diverted and made best speed to East Beach, where they found the mentioned persons safely making their own way ashore.

The lifeboat stayed in the vicinity and observed from a distance due to the lack of water, only leaving when satisfied all persons were safe.

The Southend lifeboat crew were continuing with their exercise, when they were waved down by sailors on a 29ft Snapdragon Yacht that had suffered engine failure. The lifeboat crew set up a tow line and took the vessel back to her mooring off of Thorpe Bay Yacht Club.

With the sailors all ok and happy to make their own way ashore, the lifeboat returned to exercise.

With the hovercraft stood down from the last job and making its way back to station, the crews were stopping to give members of public safety advice and encouraging them to return to shore.

The hovercraft was washed down and refuelled by the crew, who then launched the inshore lifeboat a short while later to reports of 4 people waist deep in water, 300yds offshore, just west of the pier off of Three Shells Beach.

Arriving on scene within minutes, the lifeboat crew took them aboard and ferried them safely back to shore at Three Shell's and gave safety advice.

The inshore lifeboat was then immediately tasked to assist in searching for an 8yr old, missing from Jubilee Beach. The crews were stood down a short while later, after the child was found safe and well on shore.

The final call of the day came at 18.15 hrs to East Beach, Shoebury and reports of people waist deep in water, struggling to get ashore.

On arrival at the scene, the inshore lifeboat crew found the three to be ok and making their way back ashore.

The inshore lifeboat returned to station for a wash down and refuel. Southend lifeboat crews finally ventured home at 7.45hrs after a busy weekend involving 15 calls.

RNLI media contacts

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

Key facts about the RNLI: The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 230 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and has more than 140 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 137,000 lives.

Visit the RNLI's official [YouTube channel](#) for more films and follow our rescue stories on [Twitter](#).

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