

Saturday 11th July, 2015.

For immediate release

Six calls for Southend Lifeboat Crews

Southend on sea's RNLI volunteer lifeboat crews were kept busy today with six calls throughout the day and crew eventually going home at 20.30hrs.

The first call came in at 12.10hrs with the Atlantic 75 lifeboat being launched from the pierhead and tasked to a 35ft motor cruiser that had run aground off of Shoebury. The lifeboat crew arrived on scene and attempted to tow the vessel free, but due to the state of the tide, was unsuccessful.

The four occupants aboard were happy to be left and wait for the next tide.

Later at 14.55hrs the inshore lifeboat was called to reports of an adult and two children in an inflatable, missing off of East Beach, Shoeburyness.

The inshore lifeboat crew arrived on scene and had begun searching the area with nothing found so far, when the three were reported safe and well back on shore.

With the search and rescue hovercraft out on exercise at Chalkwell, it was tasked by Thames Coastguard at 15.33hrs to reports of a 25yr old man stuck in the mud near to Thorney Bay, Canvey Island.

The hovercraft arrived on scene to find the man, who was next to a stake buried in the mud and suffering cuts and grazes. The casualty was then abusive and refusing any assistance from the hovercraft crew.

It was decided to drop a member of crew at a safe distance with the casualty whilst the hovercraft proceeded ashore to pick up police, paramedics and coastguard units before returning to the scene.

Back on scene the emergency teams were transferred to the Southend Lifeboat that had also arrived as backup, as the casualty and crew member were now waist deep in water due to the incoming tide, and could now be better reached by the boat.

After some resistance the man was eventually recovered to the lifeboat and restrained for safety, before being safely ferried ashore to Holehaven Creek Slipway, to receive further medical attention, before being taken away by ambulance.

The hovercraft was then immediately tasked to a 15yr old girl that had become stuck in the mud near to The Crowstone, at Chalkwell.

The hovercraft crew arrived on scene shortly after to find the casualty and three additional people who had walked out to assist.

All four were taken safely ashore, with the casualty being treated for cuts by the hovercraft crew.

At 19.15hrs, with lifeboat crew still at the inshore boathouse, their attention was drawn to a woman and girl stuck on a Gilson's fishing boat cut off by the tide.

The crews immediately launched the inshore lifeboat to the scene approx. 400yds offshore, just east of the pier, where the two were taken aboard the inshore lifeboat and ferried back to the boathouse, both being ok.

The inshore lifeboat was then asked by coastguard to check on an inflatable dinghy with one man aboard, offshore at The Bastion at Westcliff.

On scene the man who was ok, was happy to be left, and make his own way back to shore later.

Southend inshore lifeboat returned to station, with crew eventually making for home at 20.30hrs.

RNLI media contacts

- Denis Freeman - Southend Lifeboat Station Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer.
Tel- 07710406661, sue-den-adwalk@blueyonder.co.uk
- James Oxley, RNLI Public Relations Manager (London/South East/East)
Tel- 0207 6207425 or 07786 668825 / james_oxley@rnli.org.uk
- Sophie Coller-Nielsen RNLI Press Officer(London/South East/East)
- Tel- 0207 6207426 or 07785296252 / Sophie Coller-Nielsen@rnli.org.uk
- For enquiries outside normal business hours, contact the RNLI duty press officer on 01202 336789

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](#).

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