

Monday 14th December, 2015.

For immediate release

Southend's RNLI Hovercraft Launched To Missing Person.

Southend on sea's RNLI search and rescue hovercraft was launched from the inshore boathouse at 16.35hrs to assist police in the search for a missing person at Benfleet.

The volunteer lifeboat crew were tasked to search the area of Benfleet creek, from the flood barrier near to Benfleet station, west to the A130 Canvey Road bridge. Despite a thorough search in the dark and difficult conditions, nothing was found so the hovercraft was stood down and returned to station.

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
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- 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](#).

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