

Friday 19th June, 2015.

For immediate release

Three Shouts In Fourteen Hours For Southend's RNLI Lifeboat Crews.

Southend on sea's RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew were kept busy this Friday with three shouts between 07.45hrs and 21.10hrs

The lifeboat crews first shout of the day was at 07.45hrs, with the search and rescue hovercraft being launched from the inshore boathouse after calls from members of the public concerning a 22ft yacht that had run aground off of Canvey Point. The hovercraft arrived on scene to find the vessel high and dry with one man aboard, all ok, but with all sails flapping in the wind. The hovercraft crew boarded the vessel, helped furl the sails and check the vessel over. With the anchor set, the sailor happy to stay aboard and wait for the flood tide, the hovercraft returned to station.

The second call of the day came at 17.15hrs, with lifeboat crews launching the inshore lifeboat to reports of people in difficulties in two small inflatable dinghies near to the Ocean Beach Café, Eastern Esplanade. With the inshore lifeboat arriving on scene just a few minutes after launch, the crews found that all concerned had managed to make their way back to shore safely, so returned to the inshore lifeboat station.

The last call for the day was at 21.10hrs, with the search and rescue hovercraft being launched to marker buoy number 10 in Leigh Creek, where two persons had become stranded in their dinghy on the mud, whilst trying to get back to their 20ft yacht. The hovercraft flew in as close as possible, to the casualty, but due to the dinghy's location, the hovercraft crew had to use special mud mats to finally reach the stranded pair. The two were taken aboard the hovercraft and the dinghy taken under tow across the mud, back to their yacht safely moored. The sailors were happy to wait for the next tide and continue on their passage up the River Medway to Gillingham in Kent. Southend hovercraft returned to station for a wash down and refuel, ready for service.

RNLI media contacts

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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.