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RNLI rescue figures reveal a busy 2015 for Essex volunteer lifeboat crews

In 2015 in Essex:

- The charity's lifeboats launched 366 times
- Essex lifeboats rescued 379 people of which 15 were lives saved
- Notable rescues included two men adrift at sea in a homemade boat built for £9

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeboat crews around the coast of Essex were kept busy in 2015, according to figures released by the charity today (27 January).

Collectively, crew from the six lifeboat stations* on the county's coast launched 366 times last year to attend a wide range of incidents including broken down vessels, struggling swimmers, people cut off by the tide and even two men who went to sea in a homemade boat costing just £9 to make.

Overall RNLI lifeboat volunteers in Essex rescued 379 people. Of those, 15 were classed as lives saved – a specific RNLI criteria where a person would have died if not for the lifeboat arriving on scene.

The busiest RNLI coastal lifeboat station in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2015 was Southend. Its crew launched 142 times, rescued 120 people and saved nine lives.

Paul Barker, RNLI Community Incident Reduction Manager in the East, said: 'Once again our volunteer lifeboat crews have had a busy 12 months working hard to serve their local communities. They willingly down tools and drop everything to respond to an emergency call for help day or night, come rain or shine.'

'Over the past year the RNLI has also been working hard to prevent people from getting into danger, whether that is through lifejacket clinics or our Respect the Water campaign. We understand that things can go wrong from time to time, so some preventative maintenance and annual checks prior to the boating season should allow for worry free sea time.'

'I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their tireless hard work and dedication throughout the past 12 months. Without all of our supporters, fundraisers, crews and education teams our lifesaving service would not operate.'

2015 saw the RNLI run its national [Respect the Water campaign](#), which aims to reduce the number of coastal drownings.

Notable RNLI rescues in Essex last year included:

- Two men were rescued by **Clacton RNLI** volunteers after drifting ashore in £9 homemade boat – [read the story here](#).
- A driver was plucked to safety from the roof of his van by **West Mersea RNLI** volunteers after being swamped by a rising tide – [view the story and video here](#).
- **Burham RNLI** volunteers saved the life of a sailor trapped in the water between two vessels – [read the story here](#).
- **Harwich RNLI** volunteers came to the rescue of a Belgian fishing boat after it got into difficulties in rough sea 30 miles out – [read the story here](#)
- **Southend RNLI** volunteers went to the aid of a stranded 17ft angling boat with three people aboard at sea – [read the story here](#)
- **Walton and Frinton RNLI** volunteers launched to a container ship with engine trouble in a major shipping lane – [read the story here](#).

Ends

Notes to editors

* The six RNLI lifeboat stations in Essex are Harwich, Walton & Frinton, Clacton-on-Sea, West Mersea, Burnham-on-Crouch, and Southend-on-Sea.

2015 RNLI lifeboat station stats (Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk)

Lifeboat station	Launches	Rescues	Lives saved
Aldeburgh	18	20	0
Burnham-on-Crouch	45	57	1
Clacton-on-Sea	42	36	1
Cromer	10	8	0
Great Yarmouth & Gorleston	59	104	5
Happisburgh	5	3	0
Harwich	75	97	1
Hunstanton	27	27	9
Lowestoft	24	36	0
Sheringham	7	2	0
Southend-on-Sea	142	120	9
Southwold	7	1	0
Walton & Frinton	18	25	0

Wells	37	45	0
West Mersea	44	44	3

RNLI media contacts

- James Oxley, RNLI Public Relations Manager (London/East/South East)
0207 6207425 / 07786 668825 / james_oxley@rnli.org.uk
- Sophie Coller-Nielsen, RNLI Press Officer (London/East/South East)
0207 6207426 / 07785 296252 sophie_coller-nielsen@rnli.org.uk
- For enquiries outside normal business hours, contact the RNLI duty press officer on 01202 336789