

Saturday, 4th June, 2016.

For immediate release

Southend's RNLI Hovercraft Responds To Mayday Call From Shellfish Surveyors.

Southend on Sea's RNLI Search & Rescue Hovercraft was launched at approx. 08.30hrs today from the inshore boathouse to a report, via the coastguard of a "Mayday" call from two persons trapped by the rising tide off Wakering Stairs.

The volunteer crew made best speed in the Hovercraft to the location, NNE of the Blacktail Spit, between Shoeburyness and Foulness Island.

On scene, the crew found the pair, an adult male and female, sitting atop a quad bike which had become stuck in the soft mud, and were now surrounded by the sea. They had been returning to the shore on the bikes, having carried out a survey of the cockle beds in the area, when they ran into a soft patch of mud and were unable to move any further.

Fortunately they were well dressed in protective clothing, and equipped with distress flares and a marine radio, which they used to call the coastguard, giving an accurate position enabling the crew to locate them without difficulty.

The casualties were taken on board the Hovercraft and landed safely ashore at Wakering Stairs, where they were met by Southend mobile coastguard unit. No medical attention was required.

Southend Hovercraft returned to station about 10.30hrs for a wash down and refuel.

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.