

Wednesday 7th September, 2016.

For immediate release

Busy day for Southend's Lifeboat Crews.

Southend on sea's RNLI volunteer lifeboat crews were kept busy this afternoon and into the evening with four launches on service

The first call came at 12.18hrs when 2 swimmers were reported off the end of the Shoebury Boom. The search and rescue hovercraft was launched from the inshore boathouse and found 2 persons walking ashore. They were taken aboard the hovercraft and landed ashore at East Beach slipway. Whilst returning to the boathouse, the crew were diverted to reports of five persons cut off by the tide west of Southend pier but were stood down on route when information was received that the persons had made the beach unaided. The hovercraft was then tasked to Shoebury where a 30 foot motor cruiser was reported broken down off Barge Pier. The RNLI volunteer crew assisted the lone elderly sailor to lay an anchor while arrangements were made for Southend's Atlantic 85 lifeboat to be launched to take the vessel under tow to the entrance the River Crouch where it was met by the Burnham RNLI Lifeboat for onward passage to Burnham to effect repairs.

Later, about 20.15hrs, the search and rescue hovercraft was launched again when red flares were reported by a member of the public off Chalkwell. Rescue helicopter 163 was in the area, having just completed an exercise at Kent, and joined in the search. An unoccupied RIB was found abandoned on the Marsh End sands to the east of Canvey Point and it was believed the occupants had walked ashore but, despite an extensive search, they could not be located. The hovercraft crew laid an anchor out on the RIB to prevent it drifting away before returning to the boathouse for a wash down and refuel.

RNLI media contacts:

- Brian Wood - Southend Lifeboat Station Volunteer Assistant Lifeboat Press Officer. Tel- 07789 817915, brian@thewoods6.co.uk
- Tim Ash, RNLI Public Relations Manager (London/South East/East) 0207 6207426 / 07785 296252 / tim_ash@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](#).

For more information and photos on Southend on sea lifeboat station go to www.southendlifeboat.org

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 237 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland with 4,700 lifeboat crew and has more than 1,300 lifeguards on over 220 beaches around the UK and Channel Islands. 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 140,000 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.