

Wednesday 13th April, 2016.

For immediate release

Sea And Air Search For Person Missing In The Water.

Southend on sea's RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew launched the D Class inshore lifeboat from the inshore boathouse at 19.20hrs to reports via Thames Coastguard of a person missing in the water near to the Toulouse Restaurant at Westcliff.

The inshore lifeboat made best speed to the location and started to search the area. The Atlantic 85 lifeboat was launched from the pier shortly after to join the search and a third crew launched the second D Class inshore lifeboat from the pier around half an hour later.

Southend Coastguard teams and police were on scene searching the shoreline on foot.

The search and rescue helicopter, based at Lydd in Kent was also tasked to the search, which was now being extended over a larger area due to the ebbing tide. The area from Two Tree Island at Leigh to The Boom at East Beach, Shoeburyness, was extensively searched.

With the falling water, the first D Class inshore lifeboat was recovered to the inshore boathouse and the search and rescue hovercraft was made ready for launch.

Later the helicopter and second inshore lifeboat were stood down.

The search continued through the night into the early hours with the hovercraft and coastguard teams concentrating on searching the large area of mudflats and gut ways.

A body was located approx. 300yds off the shore, near to Thames Estuary Yacht Club.

The hovercraft crew ferried police to the scene before recovering the body to shore.

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.