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For immediate release

Busy Weekend Prompts Safety Warnings After Southend's RNLI Hovercraft Is Launched To People Cut Off By The Incoming Tide .

Southend on sea's RNLI Lifeboat Station volunteers are urging people to be more vigilant whilst enjoying themselves at the seaside, after the search and rescue hovercraft, dealt with five incidents over the hot and sunny weekend.

With the search and rescue hovercraft having been launched to a family cut off by the incoming tide near to The Mulberry Harbour on Saturday, it was launched again this hot and sunny Sunday evening at 19.30hrs, initially to two missing children at Thorpe Bay, who were found safe and well shortly after.

The volunteer hovercraft crew were then tasked to three people in danger of being cut off by the flooding tide, just to the east of The Mulberry Harbour, around a mile from shore.

The three, all ok, were picked up and ferried safely ashore to Shoebury Common Slipway to be met by a Southend Coastguard Team and given safety advice.

The hovercraft was then tasked to two people in the water, just east of Southend pier, who were in danger of being cut off and struggling to get back to shore. They were located, picked up and landed safely ashore at the inshore lifeboat station.

The hovercraft was then tasked to assist a man west of the pier, who was waist deep in water, suffering cuts to his feet, having difficulty getting ashore and in danger from the flooding tide.

He was taken to the inshore boathouse where he was given first aid by a Southend Coastguard Unit onscene, whilst the hovercraft crew returned to search and ensure all persons had made it safely to shore.

With all now ok and no further persons to be found in difficulty, Southend's search and rescue hovercraft returned to station at 21.00hrs for a wash down and refuel, ready for service.

John Foster Volunteer Lifeboat Operations Manager at Southend Lifeboat Station said "It is great to see so many people making the best of the long awaited sunshine and the lovely beaches here at Southend. Whilst we do not want in any way discourage people from enjoying themselves, we would ask that they be more vigilant, check the local tide, weather conditions and wear suitable footwear whilst venturing out on the mud. We would also ask that parents please ensure the whereabouts of their children at all times, with the school summer holidays now upon us we want everybody to stay safe whilst enjoying the water"

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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.