

Wednesday 20th July, 2016.

For immediate release

Six Call Outs In Twelve Hours For Southend's RNLI Volunteer Lifeboat Crews.

Southend on sea's RNLI Lifeboat Station volunteer crews had a busy day responding to six calls over a twelve hour period, starting at 14.45hrs on Wednesday afternoon with crews finally closing the boathouse doors and heading home at 02.15hrs Thursday Morning.

The first call came at 14.45hrs, when lifeboat crews launched the inshore lifeboat ILB1 from the inshore lifeboat station to reports of a jetski with two persons aboard, having broken down on the south side of the River Thames at All Hallows, Kent. The inshore lifeboat made best speed across the river and located the jetski and its occupants, who were both ok.

A line was set up and they were towed back to All Hallows slipway. Southend inshore lifeboat returned to station.

During the above shout, the Southend Lifeboat was tasked and launched from the pierhead boathouse at 15.00hrs to initial reports from a member of public, of a possible dinghy adrift with a person waving, west of the pier, over a half mile from shore.

The lifeboat crew thoroughly searched the area, with the only item found being a 12ft section of timber adrift.

The timber was towed back ashore as it was a danger to smallcraft and shipping and Southend lifeboat returned to the pierhead boathouse.

At 15.42hrs the inshore lifeboat ILB1 was launched again after just returning from the first shout for an immediate response, to a man in difficulty in the water off the beach near to Westcliff Casino.

The lifeboat crew arrived on scene shortly after to find the casualty that had taken in a lot of water being assisted by two men that had bravely swum out after noticing the guy in trouble. They were supporting him and hanging on to a breakwater marker pole.

The three were taken aboard the inshore lifeboat and quickly ferried back to the inshore boathouse, where the casualty who was suffering sickness was given first aid and oxygen by lifeboat crew members whilst waiting for the previously requested ambulance.

With the ambulance arriving on scene, the casualty was handed over to be treated and stabilised by paramedics, before being taken to Southend hospital for further treatment.

Later in the afternoon at 17.50hrs the hovercraft was launched from the inshore boathouse to four teenagers in an inflatable dinghy that had drifted out towards the end of the pier. The four were located, all ok, and ferried safely back ashore to Jubilee Beach, Southend.

The hovercraft then returned to the water, to pick up four adults that were also drifting out approx. half a mile offshore. They too were returned safely to the beach all ok.

Southend hovercraft returned to the inshore boathouse.

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The fifth call of the day came in at 21.40hrs, with the volunteer crews launching the hovercraft to reports from coastguard of something in the water and possible flares set off, around one mile offshore, west of The Mulberry Harbour.

The hovercraft thoroughly searched the area in the falling light, putting up white parachute flares to assist the search.

Assistance from the shore was also provided by Southend Coastguard Station and Southend Lifeboat Station.

A second crew launched the Inshore lifeboat ILB2 from the pier to assist and take over the search of the area, whilst the search and rescue hovercraft was re tasked to another job at 22.30hrs.

The sixth call of the day came as the hovercraft responded to an immediate "Mayday" call, going to assist two jetskiers that had come off their jetski and were laying injured on the mud south of the river at All Hallows, Kent, with a rising tide. Southend hovercraft was backed up by a third lifeboat crew, who launched Southend Lifeboat from the pierhead to assist.

Arriving on scene, the lifeboat crews found the two casualties on the mud, suffering suspected back, neck and facial injuries.

Gravesend lifeboat also arrived on scene to assist Southend crews, who were carefully working to stabilise the casualties injuries with neck braces and spinal boards.

The casualties were carefully transferred to Southend and Gravesend lifeboats and were slowly and safely ferried ashore to Sheerness RNLI lifeboat station, located in the mouth of The River Medway.

Sheerness volunteer lifeboat crews had turned out to assist in getting the two ashore to awaiting ambulances and on to hospital.

The jetski was also recovered by a member of the lifeboat crew and taken to Sheerness.

With the task finally wrapped up, all units were stood down and returned to station, with Southend crews making for home after a long day at 02.15hrs this Thursday morning.

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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](#).

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