

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

For immediate release

## **Southend Hovercraft Launched To Man On Mudflats**

**Southend on sea's RNLI search and rescue hovercraft was launched from the inshore boathouse at 18.00hrs to initial reports of a man giving cause for concern near to the Mulberry Harbour.**

The volunteer hovercraft crew arrived on scene, immediately started searching the area and put a crew member on to the mud to search inside the Mulberry Harbour. With nothing found, the hovercraft started to widen the search and then with updated information from the onshore Southend Coastguard Team, located the 34yr old man approx a third of a mile off of the beach at Shoebury Common Slipway. The man was fit and well but was not prepared to be ferried ashore by hovercraft, but was happy to be accompanied to the beach by a member of the hovercraft crew where they were met by coastguard and police. Southend hovercraft returned to station for a wash down and refuel.

### **RNLI media contacts**

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- 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](http://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.