



WE ARE THE RNLI THE CHARITY THAT SAVES LIVES AT SEA

Every day of the year, people get into trouble in the water.

Our lifeboat crews provide a 24-hour rescue service in the UK and Ireland. Every summer, our lifeguards look after people on busy beaches. And our Flood Rescue Team is ready to help those affected by flooding.

Our community safety teams and education volunteers help explain the risks and share safety knowledge with anyone at risk of drowning.

Our international teams work with partners to help tackle drowning in communities at risk all around the world.

And thousands of RNLI volunteer fundraisers help to support our lifesaving work.

OUR LIFEBOAT CREW

RNLI lifeboat crew members come from different backgrounds and careers – from teachers to tattooists, farmers to pharmacists. At a moment’s notice, they readily exchange work, comfort and sleep for cold, wet and fatigue.

They spend many hours of their own time training together so they can meet the dangers and challenges they face on search and rescue missions at sea.



8,436
LAUNCHES



8,072
PEOPLE
AIDED

22
PEOPLE AIDED
EACH DAY,
ON AVERAGE

IN 2017*

TRAINING

Today, only 1 in 10 of our volunteer crew members comes from a maritime profession, so training is essential. They don't just need boathandling skills – they learn everything from navigation and engine repair to first aid and sea survival. Our training provides crew members with comprehensive courses and recognised qualifications.

These high standards are maintained and developed with the help of the training staff and facilities at the RNLI College in Poole, Dorset, which complements training around the coast. This central facility provides accommodation, classrooms and distance-learning resources. There's also the Sea Survival Centre, with its state-of-the-art lifeboat simulator, wave tank and live engine workshop that give our volunteers hands-on experience.

Every year, this training costs on average £1,600 per crew member. We want our volunteers to keep themselves safe when they launch to the rescue and that's only possible thanks to our generous supporters.

ON SHORE

Volunteer shore crew form a vital part of the rescue team. They help with the launch and recovery of the lifeboat, sometimes carrying out challenging tasks such as tractor launches in powerful breaking waves. The support of shore crew is especially valued on a difficult or long shout and they are described by crew as the 'unsung heroes' of our rescues.

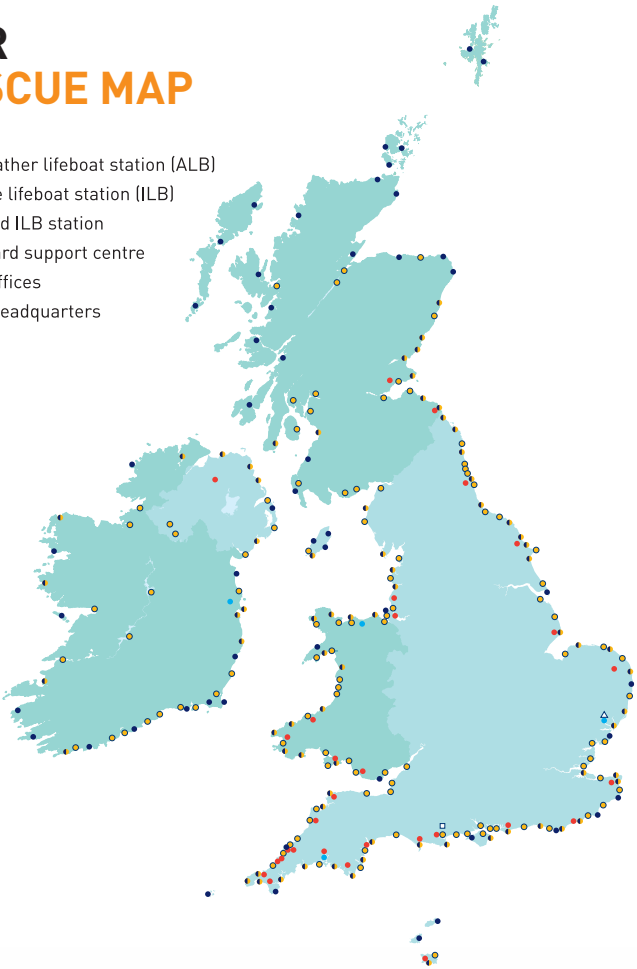
OUR SUPPORT NETWORK

The RNLI Support Centre in Poole, Dorset, stores and distributes the 750,000 items needed to run all our lifeboats, stations, lifeguard units and support offices in the UK and Ireland. Our support team can dispatch parts within 30 minutes, around the clock.

Specialist engineers, surveyors, technicians and training experts look after the requirements of stations in their division.

OUR RESCUE MAP

- All-weather lifeboat station (ALB)
- Inshore lifeboat station (ILB)
- ALB and ILB station
- Lifeguard support centre
- RNLI offices
- RNLI Headquarters



RING OF SAFETY

There are 238 lifeboat stations around the UK and Ireland, covering 19,000 miles of coastline.

Of these, four are on the River Thames, and another five are inland lifeboat stations.

The RNLI operates over 240 lifeguard units on UK and Channel Islands beaches.

The RNLI is responsible for maintaining these stations and lifeguard units. This includes building new or replacement facilities when required.

The demands of saving lives on the water constantly evolve – and so do we. This means the number and type of lifeboats in our fleet and lifeguard units will change over time.

OUR FLOOD RESCUE TEAM



The RNLI's Flood Rescue Team is a group of volunteers and staff who are specially trained to carry out search and rescue operations in severe flooding situations throughout the UK and Ireland – and around the world.

IN 2017



100
FLOOD RESCUE
VOLUNTEERS



3,000
HOURS OF TRAINING
PER YEAR



8 REGIONAL
TEAMS

10 CUSTOMISED FLOOD
RESCUE BOATS

LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOATS

Shannon class £2.2M
Shannon launch and recovery system £1.5M

INSHORE LIFEBOATS

D class £52,000
B class Atlantic 85 £214,000

ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOAT CREW KIT

Helly Hansen £1,265**
layered clothing and boots
Lifejacket £458
Helmet £263
Seagoing gloves £25

**This is the recommended retail price (RRP). We always seek to obtain the best price for all kit and equipment. Where possible we will negotiate a lower cost, so may not always pay the full RRP.

INSHORE LIFEBOAT CREW KIT

Gloves £25
Thermal suit £225
Helmet £263
Drysuit, including boots £700
Lifejacket £458
Balaclava £15

*In 2017, we introduced a more detailed casualty reporting system, which temporarily impacted on the information we were able to collect. Due to this, we are unable to provide a lives saved figure for our lifeboat service in 2017.

OUR LIFEGUARDS

Our lifeguards are responsible for making the beach a safer place, so visitors can enjoy their time at the coast and return home safely at the end of the day. The RNLI's lifeguard service operates a fleet of inshore rescue boats, rescue watercraft and four-wheel drive vehicles. Each lifeguard unit is equipped with rescue boards, rescue tubes, first aid kits, defibrillators and various other items of essential lifesaving equipment.



TRAINING

Lifeguards must reach people in trouble quickly and are often the first on hand to help. They all hold an internationally recognised beach lifeguard qualification, giving them vital lifesaving skills. RNLI lifeguards must be able to complete a 200m swim in under 3½ minutes and a 200m run on sand in under 40 seconds. They also learn advanced first aid skills and how to operate their lifesaving equipment.



15,558
INCIDENTS

24,044
PEOPLE AIDED



3.3M
PREVENTATIVE
ACTIONS

IN 2017*



SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE

SAFETY

Around 190 people die in UK and Irish waters each year. That's more than those killed in cycling accidents. Around half those who drown, never intended to get wet.

Respect the Water is the RNLI's drowning prevention campaign. It highlights the risks, advises how to avoid danger and increases the chances of survival in an emergency situation.

This year, we're asking the public to help us to save more lives by sharing some simple survival skills:

- If you find yourself in the water unexpectedly, fight your instincts and float until the effects of cold water shock pass.
- If you see someone else in trouble in the water, dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard.

GENERAL COASTAL SAFETY TIPS

- Check the weather and tide times.
- Read signs and be aware of local hazards.
- Carry a means of calling for help.

ACTIVITY TIPS

- **Swimming** – swim at a lifeguarded beach, between the red and yellow flags.
- **Angling from rocks** – always wear a lifejacket and carry a means of calling for help when fishing.
- **Angling from boats** – check your boat and equipment before every trip, always wear a lifejacket and carry a means of calling for help.
- **Kayaking** – carry a means of calling for help and keep it within reach.
- **Commercial fishing** – always wear a lifejacket.
- **Scuba diving** – check you're 100% fit to dive.
- **Sailing and motorboating** – always wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid, ensure everyone onboard knows how to call for help, get appropriate training and check your engine and fuel before every trip.

Know what to do
Visit [RNLI.org/RespectTheWater](https://www.rnli.org/RespectTheWater)



LIFEGUARD KIT

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Full wetsuit | £245 |
| Binoculars | £90 |
| Sunglasses | £50 |
| Rash vest | £25 |
| Swim suit / trunks | £35 |

*In 2017, we introduced a more detailed casualty reporting system, which temporarily impacted on the information we were able to collect. Due to this, we are unable to provide a lives saved figure for our lifeguard service in 2017.

OUR FLEET

RNLI lifeboats are divided into two categories – all-weather and inshore.

Different classes of lifeboat serve different locations, depending on geographical features, the kind of rescue work, and cover provided by neighbouring stations.

Hovercraft, introduced into the RNLI fleet in 2002, can operate in areas inaccessible to conventional lifeboats, such as tidal mudflats.

RNLI designers and engineers meet the changing needs of the lifeboat service by developing new classes of lifeboat and making improvements to existing ones.

The RNLI has 344 lifeboats on service, comprising 129 all-weather lifeboats, 211 inshore lifeboats and 4 rescue hovercraft. There are over 78 vessels in our relief fleet, ready to replace operational craft during routine maintenance or emergency repairs. Our lifeguards use two types of powered craft – inshore rescue boats and rescue watercraft.

ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOATS

All-weather lifeboats are capable of high speed in offshore conditions and can be operated safely in all weathers. They are inherently self-righting after a capsize and fitted with navigation, location and communication equipment.



SHANNON

Introduced in 2013, the Shannon is the newest lifeboat in the fleet. Propelled by waterjets, she has greater speed and manoeuvrability and can operate in shallow waters and confined spaces. Specially designed seats and SIMS (see Tamar panel) improve crew safety.

Length: 13.6m
Speed: 25 knots
Range: 240 nautical miles
Construction: fibre reinforced composite (FRC)
Crew: 6
Weight: 17 tonnes
Launch: carriage or lying afloat



TAMAR

Introduced in 2005, the Tamar is designed to be launched from a slipway, but can also lie afloat. A computerised Systems and Information Management System (SIMS) allows many of the onboard controls to be operated from any position and the crew can remain in their ergonomic seats for longer, further improving their safety.

Length: 16m
Speed: 25 knots
Range: 250 nautical miles
Construction: FRC
Crew: 6
Weight: 30 tonnes
Launch: slipway or lying afloat



SEVERN

Introduced in 1995, the Severn is still the largest lifeboat in the fleet. She carries a Y class inflatable that can be launched with a crane. Last built in 2004.

Length: 17m
Speed: 25 knots
Range: 250 nautical miles
Construction: FRC
Crew: 6
Weight: 41 tonnes
Launch: moored afloat



TRENT

The 1994-introduced Trent has the same hull shape as the Severn class but is smaller. The sheerline sweeps down for ease of survivor recovery. Last built in 2003.

Length: 14m
Speed: 25 knots
Range: 250 nautical miles
Construction: FRC
Crew: 6
Weight: 27.5 tonnes
Launch: moored afloat



TYNE

The RNLI's first 'fast' slipway lifeboat was introduced in 1982, but the Tyne is also capable of lying afloat. The last Tyne was built in 1990.

Length: 14m
Speed: 17 knots
Range: 240 nautical miles
Construction: steel
Crew: 6
Weight: 25 tonnes
Launch: slipway or moored afloat



MERSEY

Introduced in 1988 as the RNLI's first 'fast' carriage lifeboat, the Mersey can also lie afloat or slipway-launch if required. Last built in 1993.

Length: 12m
Speed: 17 knots
Range: 140 nautical miles
Construction: aluminium or FRC
Crew: 6
Weight: 13 tonnes
Launch: carriage, slipway or moored afloat

INSHORE LIFEBOATS

Inshore lifeboats are designed for rescues closer to shore – in shallow waters, surf and near rocks.



D CLASS

Originally introduced in 1963, the D class has evolved into a highly capable modern lifeboat. It is the workhorse of the RNLI's fleet and is ideal for working close inshore, near rocks or in shallow water in moderate conditions. It can be righted by the crew if it capsizes and a customised version forms part of the RNLI Flood Rescue Team's fleet of boats.

Length: 5m
Speed: 25 knots
Endurance: 3 hours max
Construction: Hypalon-coated polyester
Crew: 2–3
Weight: 436kg
Launch: trolley or davit



E CLASS

Introduced in 2002, the E class is the fastest lifeboat in the RNLI's fleet. It uses waterjets rather than propellers and is designed especially for use on the River Thames, where it's stationed.

Length: 9m
Speed: 40 knots
Endurance: 4 hours at maximum speed
Construction: aluminium alloy with closed cell polythene foam collar
Crew: 3
Weight: 3.5 tonnes
Launch: moored afloat



ATLANTIC 85 (B CLASS)

Introduced in 2005, this B class is larger than the Atlantic 75, has a faster top speed, radar, VHF direction finder, provision for a fourth crew member, and more survivor space.

Length: 8.5m
Speed: 35 knots
Endurance: 3 hours max
Construction: FRC
Crew: 3–4
Weight: 1.8 tonnes
Engine: 2 x 115hp
Launch: trolley, floating boathouse or davit



HOVERCRAFT

Introduced to the fleet in 2002, hovercraft can operate in areas of mud, sand and very shallow water – useful for shoreline searches.

Length: 8m
Speed: 30 knots
Endurance: 3 hours at maximum speed
Construction: marine grade aluminium with moulded FRC
Crew: 2–4
Weight: 2.4 tonnes
Engine: 2x75hp
Launch: bespoke transporter



RESCUE WATERCRAFT (RWC)

Fast, agile and durable, the RWC is easy to launch and can get through surf quickly. The RNLI's RWCs have a rescue sled and the waterjets mean that it is easy and safe to manoeuvre close to people in the water. Mainly used at lifeguarded beaches, there are a few at lifeboat stations.



INSHORE RESCUE BOAT (IRB)

Introduced in 2001, IRBs are hand-built at the RNLI's Inshore Lifeboat Centre in East Cowes. Sturdy enough for heavy surf conditions, IRBs are still light enough for just two people to launch.

LAUNCHING

There are three main ways of launching an all-weather lifeboat: from a mooring, down a slipway, or from a carriage hauled across a beach. Shore crew help with slipway and carriage launches.

Inshore lifeboats differ. The D class can usually be launched into the water from a trolley. Larger B class Atlantics launch by tractor-hauled DoDo (drive-on drive-off) carriage, by shore-mounted crane (davit), or from a floating boathouse.

Hovercraft can launch from any flat area, such as a car park or beach, provided there is enough room. Specialist transporter vehicles move them between sites.

LIFEGUARD CRAFT

ATLANTIC 75 (B CLASS)

This rigid inflatable lifeboat replaced the Atlantic 21 in 1993. Crew can right the craft using an inflatable bag should it capsize, and the engines are inversion-proofed to restart from wet.

Length: 8m
Speed: 32 knots
Endurance: 3 hours max
Construction: glass-reinforced plastic (GRP)
Crew: 3
Weight: 1.7 tonnes
Engine: 2 x 75hp
Launch: trolley, floating boathouse or davit

MAKING IT WORK

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the heart of the RNLI; without them we couldn't carry out our vital lifesaving service.

Over 95% of the RNLI's people are volunteers.

From lifeboat crew, lifeguards and shore crew to fundraisers, safety advisers and education presenters – thousands of dedicated volunteers save lives, raise funds, raise awareness, and help in our museums, shops, visitor centres and offices.

OUR STAFF

The RNLI could not run as effectively as it does without its staff, based all around the UK and Ireland and at the charity's headquarters in Poole, Dorset. Staff members include lifeboat designers and engineers, crew and lifeguard trainers, surveyors, marketing and PR professionals, IT experts, HR support, safety experts, and many others who support lifesavers and fundraisers on the frontline.

GOVERNANCE

The RNLI's work is overseen, and directed, by the charity's trustees. These are volunteers who lend their skills and experience to help govern the RNLI. In 2016, the RNLI welcomed Stuart Popham as chair when Charles Hunter-Pease stepped down after 3 years serving in the role. A keen sailor since his youth, Stuart was previously vice-chair of the charity.



95%
OF RNLI PEOPLE
ARE VOLUNTEERS

4,966
VOLUNTEER CREW

1,217
VOLUNTEER
SHORE CREW

**OVER
23,000**
VOLUNTEER
COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISERS

81
VOLUNTEER
LIFEGUARDS

INTERNATIONAL

Around 360,000 people drown worldwide each year.* The RNLI is helping to tackle this hidden epidemic by sharing almost 200 years of lifesaving expertise at both a community and national level.

We have been working with local communities to learn more about the causes of drowning and help save lives. We're also working with governments to build awareness of the global drowning problem and ensure that drowning prevention is recognised and resourced as a global development priority.

We work across the world with partners in Bangladesh, Ghana, Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar) to share effective lifesaving interventions and help develop national and regional drowning reduction plans.

In 2017, we helped:

- to teach 99,411 children about water safety and give 3,042 children survival swimming lessons
- to train 60 flood responders and 28 people in search and rescue
- lifeguards rescue 29 people and take 235,026 preventative actions
- to train 15 future leaders from 3 countries to lead teams and share lifesaving skills.

We also offer short-term support to organisations in other countries, for example, delivering flood and maritime search-and-rescue training.

Funding

In 2017, we spent £2.9M, equivalent to 1.9% of the RNLI's total charitable spend.



 **CHILDREN
UNDER
THE AGE
OF 5 ARE AT THE
GREATEST RISK***

**360,000
PEOPLE DROWN
WORLDWIDE
EACH YEAR***

90%
OF DROWNINGS OCCUR
IN LOW OR MIDDLE-
INCOME COUNTRIES*

*Figures estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO)



SPREADING THE WORD

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

RNLI lifeguards and education volunteers deliver lifesaving education to help keep young people safe in and near the water. Learning takes place on the beach, in lifeboat stations, in schools and at youth groups.

Children aged 7–14 can learn how to stay safe in open water by taking part in a free, practical Swim Safe session. Swim Safe is a partnership project between Swim England and the RNLI.

Downloadable resources for teachers and youth leaders can be found at RNLI.org/education.

Storm Force, our membership club for young people, inspires and educates those aged 7–11, now and into the future. It also sows the seed for becoming a supporter, volunteer or lifesaver in later life.



SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

If you are in and around the water, always remember to:

1. Stop and think
2. Stay together
3. Float
4. Call 999

Find out more at RNLI.org/education



OUR PROUD HISTORY

1824
THE YEAR THAT
THE RNLI
WAS FOUNDED

142,000
LIVES
SAVED SINCE
ITS FORMATION



The RNLI was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary. First called the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, it organised dedicated lifeboats for volunteer crew to help save those in trouble at sea.

The RNLI's heritage team cares for objects and archive materials to preserve the history of the RNLI and inspire future generations of supporters and lifesavers.

The RNLI manages 32 museums and visitor centres around the UK, as well as object and archive collections at the RNLI's headquarters in Poole, Dorset. Historic items are also displayed in many of our lifeboat stations.

External heritage funding has supported the redevelopment of museums celebrating the RNLI's most decorated lifeboatman Henry Blogg, at Cromer (pictured left), and Grace Darling, at Bamburgh. The museums are housed in new buildings and feature family-friendly displays.

Eastbourne, Whitby and Salcombe museums are set in their original boathouses while Chatham Historic Dockyard holds the RNLI Historic Lifeboat Collection. Find out more and plan a visit at RNLI.org/heritage.



MONEY MATTERS

COMMUNICATION
**SAVES
LIVES**

**IT COST
£176.5M
TO RUN
THE RNLI
IN 2017***

**£49.6M
RAISED
THROUGH
DONATIONS
IN 2017***

**£135.1M
RAISED
THROUGH
LEGACIES
IN 2017***

*Figures taken from the
RNLI Annual Report and
Accounts 2017

FUNDRAISING

In 1891, the RNLI became the first charity to organise a street collection, marking the beginning of a strong fundraising tradition. Today we remain separate from the coastguard and independent of the government, so we rely on the generosity of people like you.

Over 1,000 groups of volunteers in communities throughout the UK and Ireland organise all sorts of fundraising activities throughout the year. From coffee mornings to quiz nights, rambles to races, and more. Many groups have close links with local lifeboat stations.

We also have several big fundraising campaigns throughout the year, including Mayday in the spring and Fish Supper in the autumn. To find out how to get involved with RNLI fundraising visit RNLI.org/volunteer.

GIFTS IN WILLS

Legacies are much more than gifts in Wills. They are the lifeboat that launches to answer a call for help, the training that helps our crews reach a vessel in distress, and the support that brings them home safely. Legacies are our lifeline, now and in the future. Please see RNLI.org/legacy for more information.

RNLI SHOP

Shops boost funds and public support, and can be found at many lifeboat stations. We also have an online shop at shop.RNLI.org.

KEEP IN TOUCH

On 1 January 2017, the RNLI became the first major charity in the UK or Ireland to move to an opt-in approach to communications, only contacting people by post, email or telephone if they have given their express permission for us to do so.

We know this is the right thing to do – we have a responsibility to ensure our supporters' trust in us is well-placed.

To date, more than 500,000 supporters have opted in to receive RNLI communications.

To keep in touch or find out more, go to RNLI.org/support-us/keep-in-touch.

MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Supporters are the lifeblood of the RNLI, making one-off or regular donations throughout the year. Many supporters choose personal challenges to raise funds and more than 150,000 have chosen one of our membership options: Shoreline, Offshore, Governor, or Storm Force for children under 11 years old.

The RNLI relies also on other organisations, such as companies and trusts for support, and employees can support the charity through payroll giving.



Royal National Lifeboat Institution
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Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603)
and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland