

## LIFESAVING IN ACTION

Preventing accidents *before* they happen is 90% of a lifeguard's job. The RNLI lifeguard service went to over 9,500 incidents and aided over 11,000 people in 2008. The RNLI plans to cover over 150 beaches by 2010.



## ETERNALLY GRATEFUL

Mum Carolyne will never forget the last day of her Summer holiday in June 2007:

'My sons Angus and Will were having a great time swimming in the sea. They're big teenage boys and strong swimmers who don't usually call for their mum – so when I heard them shout for me I knew something was wrong.

'They were caught in a strong rip current and couldn't swim back to shore. The water was like a whirlpool, and they were in danger of being crushed on the rocks. They were so close and yet in so much trouble. I could see their faces.

'I dialled 999 for the Coastguard who contacted the RNLI lifeguards at the

neighbouring beach. It only took minutes for the rescue boat to arrive ... when I saw the boat with two lifeguards onboard I was so relieved.

'I am eternally grateful to the lifeguards – if they hadn't been there that day, my boys would have drowned.'



## RNLI LIFEGUARDS

RNLI rescue craft give lifeguards the speed and manoeuvrability to get to even the most remote and hazardous of rescue scenes as quickly as possible. From then on it's down to the courage, strength and skill of the lifeguards. The RNLI's lifeguard service now operates on more than 100 beaches in the UK and is continuing to expand.

To find out how to visit our beaches go to [rnli.org.uk/rnli\\_near\\_you](http://rnli.org.uk/rnli_near_you)

## The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

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Lifeguards



## LIFEGUARDS

The RNLI provides a seasonal lifeguard service on over 100 beaches in the south west, east and north east of England and south Wales.

RNLI lifeguards operate 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.

The inshore rescue boat is able to operate in heavy surf conditions, it is launched from the shore by two people.

Very quick and agile, the rescue watercraft (RWC) can be deployed rapidly and operated by one lifeguard. Its exceptional speed and manoeuvrability make it perfectly suited to high-speed casualty pick-ups in the surf.

Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, its lifeboats and, since 2001, its lifeguards, have saved more than 137,000 lives.



**RNLI LIFEBOATS, LIFEGUARDS LIFE FIRST.**



'The RWC offers us speed and great manoeuvrability, especially in large surf and with lots of swimmers in the water. The attached rescue sled makes it incredibly easy to rescue conscious swimmers.'

Lifeguard Supervisor Sandi Hill, Wales

### INSHORE RESCUE BOAT

**Date introduced:** 2001  
**Number in fleet:** 60  
**Length:** 3.88m  
**Beam/width:** 1.73m  
**Launch:** 2 people from shore  
**Fuel capacity:** 20 litres  
**Crew:** 2

**Maximum speed:** 26 knots  
**Power:** 30hp  
**Weight:** 165kg  
**Construction:** Hypalon-coated fabric  
**Engine:** 30hp outboard with propeller guard  
**Survivor capacity:** 5-6

### RESCUE WATERCRAFT

**Date introduced:** 2002  
**Number in fleet:** 30  
**Length:** 3.22m  
**Beam/width:** 1.17m  
**Launch:** 1 person from shore  
**Fuel capacity:** 50 litres  
**Crew:** 1-2  
**Maximum speed:** 40 knots  
**Power:** 80hp

**Weight:** 285kg  
**Construction:** Glass fibre  
**Engine:** 701cc, 2-stroke, oil injection, petrol. The engine is directly coupled to a single-stage axial-flow water jet pump with a three-bladed stainless steel impeller  
**Survivor capacity:** 3 plus 1 on rescue sled



## THE FINER DETAILS

### INSHORE RESCUE BOAT

The inshore rescue boat is hand-built to a proven design, tested over many years in extreme surf conditions. It is made from hypalon-coated fabric, an extremely durable synthetic rubber, at the RNLI's Inshore Lifeboat centre in Cowes, Isle of Wight.

The craft has a fabric floor tensioned by a separate keelson tube fitted under removable floorboards. This forms a shallow vee section that allows the craft to maintain speed and manoeuvrability through a wide range of difficult conditions.

### RESCUE WATERCRAFT

The RNLI's RWC is a modified branded personal watercraft model with a rescue sled. The RWC has exceptional acceleration, speed and manoeuvrability and can be safely operated in very shallow waters. Each craft is fitted with enough fixed internal buoyancy to remain floating in the event of a hull breach.