

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Both Fowey RNLI volunteer lifeboat crews sent to rescue a man washed from a swamped boat.

At 1.20pm on Saturday 22 September the RNLI Trent class *Maurice and Joyce Hardy* and the D-class *Olive Two* with 11 crewmembers in total took 18 minutes to reach Silvermines near Mevagissey.

A man from Duporth near St Austell had been out in a 10ft inflatable boat when it was swamped. The seas were choppy in an east-south-easterly force 3-4 and he was unable to manage on a beach accessible only by the sea. He called for help using his mobile and Brixham Coastguard launched the Fowey RNLI volunteer crews.

The D-class inshore lifeboat beached to recover the casualty but shortly afterwards a large set of waves drove the boat up the beach swamping it, the D-class was re-launched by the crew into the surf and the casualty taken on board but in driving out through the surf was again swamped including the engine and was washed back onto the beach.

The all-weather Trent lifeboat then transferred a bow tow ashore to the D-class using a rocket line and towed the D-class clear of the beach. With the casualty aboard the Trent and the D-class in tow the crews on the Trent started the return journey to Fowey.

Unfortunately the man began to show signs of needing more urgent medical attention so the D-class was left in St Austell Bay at anchor and the casualty was taken rapidly to Fowey lifeboat station where an ambulance was expected.

By the time the ambulance arrived the man's condition was improving and after a full check, the ambulance crew took him home.

The crew of the *Maurice and Joyce Hardy* then returned to *Olive Two* and brought her back to station, ready for service by 4.10pm

RNLI media contacts

For more information please contact Cath Ellis, volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer for Fowey RNLI on 07969 693218. Other RNLI media contacts include Tamsin Thomas, RNLI Public Relations Manager, on 07786 668847 or email Tamsin.Thomas@rnli.org.uk or Emma Haines, RNLI Press Officer, on 07920 818807 email Emma.Haines@rnli.org.uk. For urgent calls out of hours please contact the Duty RNLI Press Officer on 01202 336789.

RNLI online

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 www.rnli.org.uk/press

Key facts about the RNLI

The RNLI charity 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 160 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 139,000 lives.

A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SCO37736).
Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland

