

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Fowey RNLI all-weather lifeboat launched to find empty yacht sailing by itself.

A Culdrose Search and Rescue helicopter crew and the Fowey RNLI lifeboat were tasked to find an activated Personal Locator Beacon late morning Sunday 30 September. The helicopter crew located the injured man approximately 6 miles south west of Looe and took him straight to Treliske for urgent medical attention.

The Fowey lifeboat with 7 volunteer crewmembers on board were then tasked to find the yacht he had fallen from by judging the tide and wind directions. The yacht was found three miles from the casualty in the water because it had continued to sail on its own. If the Locator Beacon had not been activated the yacht would have continued to sail for a further 18 hours before hitting the land and no-one would have known when the man had been lost.

The yacht was sailed into Fowey harbour by two of the lifeboat crew and made safe.

The Coxswain, Jonathan Pritchard said 'This was a very lucky gentleman indeed. Personal Locator Beacons are basically worth their weight in gold and definitely saved this man's life.'

The Trent class *Maurice and Joyce Hardy* was ready for its next service by 3.10pm.

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

