

# DART TALES

  
 Lifeboats

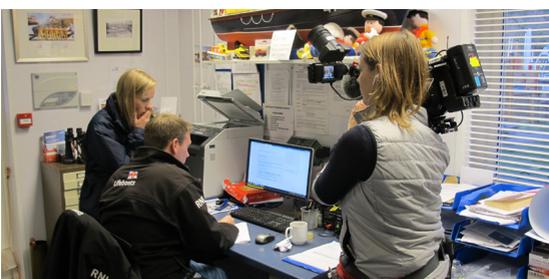
## NEWS FROM THE RNLI LIFEBOAT TEAM IN DARTMOUTH



### BLAST! FILMS ARE ALREADY BUSY IN THE SOUTH WEST SHOOTING FILM FOR THE THIRD SERIES OF 'SAVING LIVES AT SEA'.

The programmes are built around video footage taken on actual rescues by RNLI lifeboat crews and lifeguards. Three film crews will be working continuously on the project until August. One of the crews began in Salcombe at the end of March and then moved to spend a week in Dartmouth. Before they chose which lifeboat stations to visit the film producers look at videos edited by the local Lifeboat Press Officers which have been published on the central RNLI Video Library and are already in the public domain.

Blast! Films then ask for the entire original footage to be sent to them to re-edit. During their time at the lifeboat station they film general views of the surrounding area; in our case the river and the local coastline. They then go on to film launches and scenes as the crew arrive at the station and prepare to launch. The volunteers on the launches that have been highlighted are then interviewed and, if they are willing and available, those who have been rescued. The series is due to go out on BBC 2 in the autumn.



### 2017 WAS RNLI DART'S BUSIEST YEAR WITH A

**TOTAL OF 47 LAUNCHES.** A total of 59 adults, one young person and a whale were assisted and one life was saved. November 7th was also the 10th anniversary of the station becoming operational. The volunteers at Dart were afloat on service for a total of 59 hours. The charity's lifeboats launched on a total of 8436 times in the year, of which 570 were by RNLI lifeboats around the coast of Devon.

The highest percentage of our requests for help was from vessels in Start Bay. This was usually to private angling boats, motor cruisers and yachts with engine failure and follows the trend of increasing numbers of vessels using the harbour. Usually the vessel in need of help was clearly identifiable, but on occasions the volunteers at the National Coastwatch station at Froward Point were able to help in identification when the position given was incorrect or it had moved after the initial signal and not given a progress report to the Coastguard.

Start Bay	Dartmouth Harbour	Up river	Dart estuary
42%	30%	13%	10%

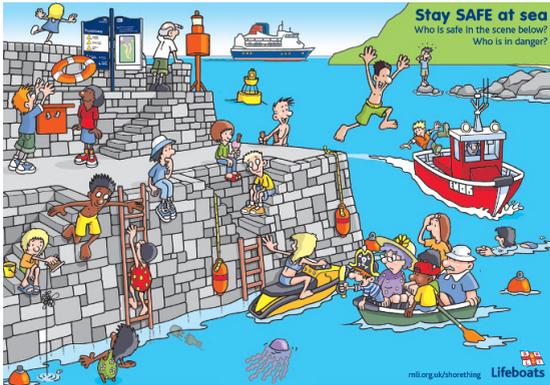
As might be expected the highest percentage of call outs were during daylight hours when the majority of people were on the water, but 30% of launches were to people in difficulty after dark and, during the winter, weekly training of all the crew takes place to work in this situation.

Our flank stations are called by the Coastguard when an all weather lifeboat is a more appropriate vessel or when the Dart inshore lifeboat can work alongside them. The Torbay Severn class ALB is based in Brixham and there is a Tamar class ALB in Salcombe. Over the year the Torbay lifeboat towed in a trawler that was taking on water after the Dart crew had taken out an additional salvage pump. Torbay ALB also attended a yacht with engine failure that was found by the Dart crew over 8 miles out in Start Bay. When there was the need to search for a missing person and the precise location was unknown the land based local coastguard teams searched the shore and cliffs whilst the inshore lifeboat carried out a shoreline search with the ALB carried out a search further offshore.

Dart lifeboat has also worked alongside the Salcombe lifeboat. One such was to tow a rudderless

yacht into Dartmouth harbour when it had been brought back by the ALB from the French shipping lanes to its home port. The other two episodes were when the Salcombe and Dart volunteers combined to assist the British Divers Marine Rescue team to free a humpback whale ensnared by a whelk line off Blackpool Sands – twice!

The lifeboat crews train with each other during the year and the Dart volunteers also train with the RNLI Lifeguards based at Blackpool Sands and Slapton Sands. This training proved useful when the two teams combined to rescue an injured swimmer at Blackpool Sands in September.



## EDUCATION NEWS

The education team based on the Dart lifeboat station have traditionally taken the beach safety message into our local primary schools in the period before the May half term. This year they will be visiting Dartmouth Academy, St John the Baptist Primary school, and the Primary schools at Blackawton, Kingswear and Stoke Fleming. Usually there is a whole school assembly followed by presentations to the different age groups so that the message is given appropriately.

The RNLI's core messages have been designed to break the drowning chain by identifying, assessing and managing the dangers and knowing what to do in an emergency.

The mnemonic SAFE was used previously but this has now been replaced with updated messages developed after extensive research with all age groups, primary through to teens.

### The core messages are:

- Stop and think – spot the dangers or know the dangers.
- Stay together with a friend or family member.
- Float – if you are in trouble in the water, float until you feel calm and then think what to do next.
- Call 999/112 – if you see someone else in trouble in the water, call 999/112 immediately.

Within the main core messages there are further key points to deliver which can be used where appropriate in relation to the age and experience of those listening.

News, details of launches, photographs and videos can be found on the Dart station website. [www.dartlifeboat.org.uk](http://www.dartlifeboat.org.uk) or the station Facebook page [www.facebook.com/dartnrlifeboat](http://www.facebook.com/dartnrlifeboat)

*John Fenton, RNLI Dart Lifeboat Press Officer & Education Volunteer*

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