



All-Weather Lifeboat, at 16.17pm on 5 May 2020

With the country on lockdown RNLI lifeboats around the coast are still on call with their volunteers ready to respond as usual.

The Swanage crew's pagers sounded this afternoon, Solent Coastguard were requesting assistance in a search following receipt of a distress signal from a PLB (personal locator beacon) in the Poole Bay area. The volunteers assembled maintaining social distancing until 6 crew were chosen to go afloat and 3 crew for the shore. The lifeboat launched and made best speed towards the last known position NE of Old Harry Rocks. HMS Tyne was also in the area searching and the Coastguard Helicopter had been tasked too. Once on scene the lifeboat conducted an expanding square search looking for a possible person in the water or something that would explain the beacon signal. An hour after launch further information was received from the Coastguard that the beacon was now believed to be ashore so all units were stood down. The lifeboat returned to station carrying out some maintenance checks on the way back to ensure that all the boat's equipment was working correctly.



This year, Swanage's lifeboats have responded to 3 incidents together.

The Shannon class all-weather lifeboat has also launched to 4 incidents.

The D class inshore lifeboat has launched to two other services as well.

This gives a total of 9 incidents responded to, so far, this year

