



Inshore Lifeboat, at 7.59pm on 7 May 2020

On a flat calm sunny evening the Swanage volunteers weren't expecting to be called out but at 7.45pm their pagers sounded for the second time this week. This time the inshore lifeboat (ILB) was requested to launch. Solent Coastguard had received a report from Dorset Police of two people cut off by the tide in the Old Harry Rocks area. The crew assembled whilst maintaining social distancing, three crew were chosen for the ILB and two for the shore. The ILB crew donned their usual PPE but added gloves and face masks as they were going to be in close contact with two unknown people. The ILB launched and located the two people 250m South of Old Harry Rocks. Both had been in the water but had managed to climb back out on to the cliff. They had a few cuts and scrapes but were otherwise unhurt. They were fitted with lifejackets, taken aboard the lifeboat and taken to South Beach, Studland. On arrival the pair were met by the volunteers from Swanage Coastguard and officers from Dorset Police. It turns out that they were actually a party of three but one had swum round in to Studland Bay to raise the alarm. With the situation resolved the ILB was released to return to station where it was carefully washed down and thoroughly disinfected ready for the next launch.

To help protect the public and our volunteers, we urge people to take care at the coast and follow government guidelines to travel and exercise close to home



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 3 other services as well.

This gives a total of 10 incidents responded to, so far, this year

