



All Weather Lifeboat, at 11.38am on 1 July 2020

Swanage's all weather Shannon class lifeboat launched just before lunchtime today to assist 3 paddle boarders in difficulties 0.5Nm East of Old Harry Rocks. A member of the public spotted the paddle boarders who appeared to be struggling with the breezy conditions and were being swept out to sea by the outgoing tide.

The lifeboat crew were paged and the lifeboat launched a short time later. In the time it took the lifeboat to launch a small yacht had responded to the UK Coastguard's radio call asking for vessels in the area to assist the paddleboarders. They had managed to pass them a rope but weren't able to get them aboard. It did however give the lifeboat a bigger target to find and they were able to talk to the yacht to confirm their position, slightly further South than first thought. The lifeboat was quickly on scene and the 3 paddleboarders and their boards were recovered on to the lifeboat. All 3 were checked over, one was cold and tired but the others were OK. It was agreed to take the 3 back to Knoll Beach where they'd initially left from so the lifeboat made best speed to Studland Bay. Once in Studland Bay another paddleboarder was spotted who wasn't making any headway towards the beach in the gusty offshore conditions. After a quick chat they were taken aboard the lifeboat too and were dropped 100m or so off Knoll Beach with the initial casualties. All 4 were met by the volunteers from Swanage Coastguard after a short paddle/walk ashore as it was too shallow for the lifeboat to get any closer. With the situation resolved the lifeboat was released to return to station.



This year, Swanage's lifeboats have responded to 4 incidents together.

The Shannon class all-weather lifeboat has also launched to 9 incidents.

The D class inshore lifeboat has additionally launched to 9 other services.

This gives a total of 22 incidents responded to, so far, this year

