



All-weather Lifeboat, at 6.12pm on 3 July 2019

As the Swanage volunteers were about to head to the lifeboat station for their routine Weds night training their pagers sounded. Solent Coastguard had requested the launch of the Shannon class all weather lifeboat to investigate reports of a distress beacon signal and some debris approximately 30Nm South of Swanage. The Coastguard helicopter from Lee-on-Solent was also being tasked to assist.

The lifeboat launched, a course was plotted to the position given by the Coastguard and the crew settled in for the 70 minute trip to the scene. Once on scene a search was commenced both visual and using the lifeboat's radio direction finder. After 40 minutes of searching nothing was found. The Coastguard helicopter had finished its search also with nothing found. With this in mind the Coastguard were happy to stand both units down pending further information.

At this time the source of the initial beacon signal remains unknown. The lifeboat was back in Swanage Bay shortly after 9pm, it was recovered, washed down, re-fuelled and made ready for service.



This year, Swanage's lifeboats have responded to 8 incidents together.

The Shannon class all-weather lifeboat has launched to 13 further incidents.

The D class inshore lifeboat has also responded to 8 incidents.

This gives a total of 29 incidents, so far, this year

