



Both Lifeboats, at 6.30pm on 23 August 2020

A 'Mayday' distress call from a local dive boat stating that two divers were overdue and missing from a drift dive that began near Old Harry was received by the UK coastguard on Sunday evening.

The volunteer crew members of Swanage lifeboat were paged and both lifeboats launched to help in the search effort. The all-weather lifeboat was tasked to begin an 'expanding square' search starting from a position close to Swanage Bay. Meanwhile, with a strong ebb tide flowing, the inshore lifeboat made its way towards Durlston Head, where two local boats were also searching and a call from a member of the public had reported seeing the divers.

Shortly afterwards, one of the local boats found both divers safe and well and recovered them from the water more than 4 miles from where they had begun their dive. After confirming the identity of the divers, and that no further assistance was needed, both lifeboats were able to return to station.



This year, Swanage's lifeboats have responded to 11 incidents together.

The Shannon class all-weather lifeboat has also launched to 17 incidents.

The D class inshore lifeboat has additionally launched to 14 other services.

This gives a total of 42 incidents responded to, so far, this year

