



**RNLI**

## D CLASS LIFEBOAT

The RNLI provides, on call, a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service to 100 nautical miles out from the coast of the UK and RoI.

RNLI lifeboats can be divided into two categories: all-weather and inshore. The D class is an inshore lifeboat (ILB).

This fast, light inflatable can be used in many locations but is specifically suited to surf, shallow water and confined locations. The D class is launched into the water from a trolley or davit and is ideal for rescues close to shore in fair to moderate conditions.

The RNLI has three classes of ILB: B class, D class and E class. These craft reach casualties in places where an all-weather lifeboat would be unable to operate, for example, close to shore,

close to cliffs, among rocks or even in caves.

Different classes of lifeboat are needed for various locations, primarily depending on geographical features, the kind of rescue work that the station is asked to do and the cover provided by neighbouring stations. The RNLI carries out a 5-yearly review of lifeboat stations, looking at the incidents they launch to and the changing pattern of marine activities to ensure that the existing and future lifeboat coverage are appropriate.

All RNLI inshore lifeboats are built and maintained at the Inshore Lifeboat centre (ILC) in Cowes, Isle of Wight. RNLI designers and engineers continually make improvements to existing craft to meet the changing needs of the lifeboat service and develop new classes of lifeboat as required.

# The RNLI D Class Lifeboat



Port Isaac's D Class Lifeboat on exercise

