



## Guidance

### Guidance Number:

### Guidance Title:

### Applicability:

### Reason for Guidance:

Interaction with external agencies is key to our success in saving lives at sea. This guidance note provides advice on working with a number of external agencies.

### Objective of Guidance:

To provide guidance on Working with External Agencies

### Guidance:

#### Civil Emergency Plans

Launching Authorities should acquaint themselves with the local Civil Emergency Plan, which may have to be activated if a large number of survivors are brought ashore.

#### International Life Saving Federation (ILS)

ILS is the world lead body for life saving and life saving sport. It recognises the training and awards of member Federations The RNLI is a corresponding member of ILS.

There is an agreement to co-operate on the sharing of information for the purpose of saving life under an MOU with the International Lifeboat Federation (ILF).

#### Land-based Emergency Services

During each induction period at the start of the three season types, the Local Ambulance, Fire and Police Service Liaison Officer or equivalent is to be invited to brief the Lifeguards on operational liaison and co-ordination. At all times during the season the Area Lifesaving Manager (ALM) is to liaise with their local Emergency Services at the appropriate operational level to ensure proper co- ordination of resources.

#### Local Authority

At all times during the season the Area Lifesaving Manager (ALM) is to liaise with the relevant local Authority Officers at the appropriate operational level to ensure proper co- ordination of resources, specifically the Harbour Master, Beach Services Manager and Beach Inspectors who may be called to enforce local bye-laws.

#### MRCC/MRSCs & HMCg

Prior to the commencement of each season the ALM shall inform the relevant Coastguard stations of proposed resources and availability of declared facilities for the coming season.

Operational resource maps will be provided showing the geographical position of each BLU together with the operational areas, available resources, season dates and contact details of key Beach Lifeguard personnel.

At the end of the season the ALM together with the Lifesaving Manager (LM) shall have a post-season liaison meeting with the local MRCC or MRSC senior personnel to review the season's activities. During each induction period at the start of the three season types, the Local HMCG Sector Manager is to be invited to brief the Lifeguards on operational liaison and co-ordination. At all times during the season the ALM is to liaise with their local MRCC/MRSC and HMCG Rescue Teams at the appropriate operational level to ensure proper co-ordination of resources.

**Police Assistance**

At some stations it may be necessary, in order to prevent accidents to the public, to secure the attendance of the police whenever the lifeboat is launched or recovered. If a lifeboat becomes a casualty, or is damaged, the Launching Authority should at once arrange for the provision of police protection for her when she reaches shore, in order to prevent her being touched or tampered with by unauthorised persons. The expenses of such protection, if any, will be defrayed by RNLI Headquarters.

**RNLI Lifeboats**

Regular meetings and liaison with the relevant station personnel by the ALM should take place to ensure that both the RNLI Lifeboat service and RNLI Beach Lifeguard service work together as a team where appropriate.

**SLSA of GB and RLSS UK**

The Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain & Royal Life Saving Society UK are the traditional providers of volunteer beach lifeguards through a network of coastal clubs. They provide the basic training for Lifeguards to an agreed national standard. The RNLI provide the external moderation for this training and award to ensure a consistent high standard.

The RNLI Beach Lifeguard service engages volunteer Lifeguards through lifesaving clubs under a Memorandum of Understanding between the SLSA of GB and the RLSS UK.

The RLSS UK and SLSA of GB must be clearly recognised as Beach Lifeguard partners and referenced accordingly.

**The Shipwrecked Mariners Society**

This Society has representatives in most ports and will usually assist with the reception of survivors. During normal working hours the local representative of the Society can often provide cash grants for clothing and travel.

**Reference Documents:**

None

**Related Policies, Procedures & Guidance:**

- [PO1010 - Reception of Survivors](#)
- [PO1053 - Hosting Public Access Defibrillators at RNLI Premises](#)
- [PO1051 - Emergency Personnel on Lifeboats](#)

**Related Forms & Instructions:**

None