INSHORE LIFEBOAT

D CLASS

The D class inshore lifeboat has been the workhorse of the RNLI rescue service for 50 years. This inflatable is highly manoeuvrable and usually operates close to shore.

She is specifically suited to surf, shallow water and confined locations – often close to cliffs, among rocks or even in caves. Launching from a trolley or davit, the D class lifeboat is ideal for rescues in fair to moderate conditions.

First introduced into the fleet in 1963, the design of the D class continues to evolve to meet changes in demand and technology.

Today, all RNLI inshore lifeboats are built and maintained at the Inshore Lifeboat Centre (ILC) in East Cowes, Isle of Wight.



All lifeboats have a unique identification number. The first part of the inshore lifeboat's number indicates the class. All D class lifeboats begin with D and the numerals after the dash refer to the build number, so the first D class inshore lifeboat of the current design to be built was given the number D-600.



A single 50hp outboard engine can be restarted by the crew after a capsize.



members onboard. They lead the rescue to ensure the lifeboat gets to where it needs to be and that casualties are given the appropriate care. A helm will have many years of experience as a volunteer crew member, and be trained to the

and team management.



A helm is responsible for the inshore lifeboat and the crew highest levels in areas including navigation, search and rescue, casualty care, leadership



CASUALTY CARE

Medical equipment is stowed in the bow pod, including oxygen and full resuscitation kit, responder bag and multi-purpose ambulance pouch.



Crew use a magnetic compass and an onboard global positioning system (GPS) plotter.



Fitted and hand-held VHF radio ensure communication, for example between the crew and Coastguard, remains constant.



Many rescues take place at night and can involve being close to dangerous cliffs and man-made structures, or searching caves and crevices. Being able to illuminate the surrounding area with a searchlight and parachute illuminating flares, along with using night-vision equipment, helps keep crew members safe as well as locate those in need



Launching by davit or trolley from harbour or beach is made possible by a team of RNLI volunteer shore crew and can involve shore vehicles, such as tractors.



trolley or davit



SURVIVOR CAPACITY



LAUNCH

1 x Mariner at 50hp





