



# **The States of Jersey Fire & Rescue Service In Partnership with Jersey's Coastguard**



The States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service have possessed an inshore rescue capability since 1960. At that time the Island was served by only one ocean-going RNLI lifeboat, with the Fire and Rescue Service providing the desperately needed inshore rescue cover using a 16 foot inflatable 'Zodiac'. In its first year the Fire and Rescue Service's Zodiac conducted 35 inshore rescues. This attracted the attention of David Stogdon MBE, a lifeboat designer, who sadly passed away earlier this year aged 89. After carrying out trials using The Jersey Fire and Rescue Service's Zodiac, David - who had been promoted to 'Inspector of Lifeboats' - persuaded the RNLI to build its own fleet of inflatable craft. This ultimately led to the development of the Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) now common world wide.

To meet the Island's growing sea rescue needs, the RNLI have since strengthened their island fleet using RIBs and now have three lifeboats on 24/7 stand-by. However, the need for the D-Class lifeboats operated by the Fire and Rescue Service still remains. Co-ordinated by Jersey's Coastguard, The Fire and Rescue Service have attended 129 sea rescue incidents since 2004 rescuing 74 people. In addition to the provision of this sea-going service, the Fire and Rescue Service's Line Rescue Team operate as another of Jersey Coastguard's many resources and have been called to attend 18 line rescue incidents since 2004, rescuing 13 people.

All firefighters in Jersey's Fire and Rescue Service are trained to crew the Inshore Rescue Boats. To manage the training involved, the Service has become an official Royal Yachting Association (RYA) training centre enabling it to conduct its own powerboat training and certification. Training begins with the RYA's Power Boat 'Level 1' Course as an introduction. Members of the Service who have qualified as RYA Powerboat Instructors are responsible for the initial and continuation training of crew members. After completion of the 'Level 1' Certificate, the Instructors continue to train crew members with the aim of preparing them to undergo the 'Level 2' Powerboat assessment which coincides with the end of the firefighters' probationary period.

Crews continue to train throughout the year; in addition to this training crew members gain tremendously from their experiences of real emergencies. The final phase of programmed training for crew members comes in the form of the RYA's 'Safety Boat Course'. This two day course introduces crew members to varying types of sea-going craft and focuses specifically on rescue techniques. This final assessment coincides with the Firefighters qualifying exams which are taken at the end of his / her fourth year of service.

The design of the equipment (the RNLI now being used as the 'best practice' model) and the nature of the training allows Jersey's Fire and Rescue Service to access areas of The island's coastline that are denied to many other types of vessel. This valuable island asset, twinned with the Service's versatile Line Rescue capability, significantly contributes to the resources that Jersey's Coastguard have at their disposal.

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