



Do you want to join our Operational Rescue Team?

Imagine for a moment that you have gone out for the evening for a meal with your best friends at your favourite pub / restaurant. The waiter has just put your meal down in front of you and you have just taken the first bite of what promises to be a fantastic meal. Your pager goes off. You have to put down your knife and fork, forego your meal and time out with your mates and immediately head down to the lifeboat station to launch the lifeboat. A sailing vessel is in difficulties 3 miles out at sea!

And you still want to volunteer for this?

To become a team member, you need to:

- be over 17 (with the permission of your parents) or over 18 years old
- pass an RNLI medical and eyesight test
- be physically fit
- live and work in Weston – available 24 / 7 for call outs
- be a team player and be accepted by the rest of the team
- enjoy hard physical work
- be able to commit to attend the majority of training sessions on a Wednesday evening, and Sunday morning.

Do you fit the criteria above and still have a desire to give aid to those in distress? Then read on....

Crew members need good interpersonal skills. This means you need to:

- get on well with other people
- communicate easily - that means talking and listening!
- obey orders when required to

Being part of a lifeboat crew is a major commitment, which could ultimately include risking your life. Your commitment isn't only measured in the time spent involved in rescues. Increasingly, new equipment and faster boats mean that regular training programmes also account for much of your spare time. You may also be asked to help show visitors around the station and with local fundraising. Due to this huge commitment it is important to have support from your family.

What's in it for you?

The RNLI provides first class training and equipment, guidance and support. For you it's an opportunity to achieve and to save lives and a chance to be part of our world class rescue service. We can offer you one of the most exciting and fulfilling voluntary jobs available.

Still interested?

If the thrill of a shout and teamwork appeal to you, and you think that you have what it takes to be that special kind of person, then read about how things work at Weston-super-Mare station and complete the form on **Page 3** and send it back to us!



How does it work at Weston-super-Mare?

There are several key areas of operation in the Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat Service. As outlined below, not only do we need crew for the lifeboat, we also need a range of support personnel to be able to launch and recover the lifeboat and perform various maintenance duties.

Introduction

8 weeks to simply allow time for introduction to our crew, observe the crew at work with the lifeboat and launch tractors & trailers, launch and recovery of the lifeboat, handle various pieces of equipment on the boat and in the boathouse and familiarisation with the Lifeboat operating procedures.

You may have the opportunity to join in with the maintenance and some basic training; seamanship skills, knots, chart work, radio, first aid etc.

Crew training takes place every Wednesday (7:30pm) and every Sunday (10:00am) at the boathouse and at sea.

Once you have passed the Introductory period, and you decide to proceed with training and join the team (subject to approval of the Lifeboat Operations Manager and station team) you will attain Shore Crew status. It is then necessary to complete an RNLI Station Volunteer Registration Form.

Shore Crew

Shore Crew training sessions will include ongoing VHF radio, chart work, first aid, launch and recovery of lifeboat, refuelling and making lifeboat ready for service, familiarisation with operational procedures and maintenance etc.

When the station team feel confident that you are reliable have reached a satisfactory skill / knowledge level you will receive a pager and key to the boathouse so you can fully assist with 'shouts'. Estimated 3 months.

Tractor Driver

Tractor driver training is specialised. If you wish to receive tractor training whilst you are a member of our Shore Crew you can do so until you are signed off as a qualified operational driver.

Boat Crew

When you have completed 9 months as Shore Crew / Tractor Driver you can be considered to trial for Boat Crew training. This isn't suited to everyone!

The probation period for a Lifeboat Crew member is 12 months.

On station training will include sea survival, all operational procedures, further navigation, radio and first aid, boat and casualty handling, use and maintenance of lifeboat and equipment.

Retirement

Boat crew retire when 45 and Shore Crew at 65.

If you are interested in joining the team, then please complete a Crewmember Application Form on **Page 3** and return to: **R N L I Weston Lifeboat Station, Knightstone Road, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, BS23 2BE**
Your reply can be sent by post or put through the letter box on the station



Weston-super-Mare RNLI Application to become a Station Team Member

This form is for use by Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat station only. Your details will not be passed on to any third parties.

Name:

Address:

Date Of Birth:

Contact Email / Phone Number:

Job / Place of work:

Please attach photo here:

Would your employer be willing to release you from work for all pager callouts? Yes / No

Do you have your own vehicle at your disposal to get you to the boathouse for call outs? Yes / No

Any sea going experience?

Skills, interests, a little about yourself and family:

What do you think you can contribute to the organisation?