



RNLI Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) Recommendations Report

Ventnor Beach, Ventnor Town Council

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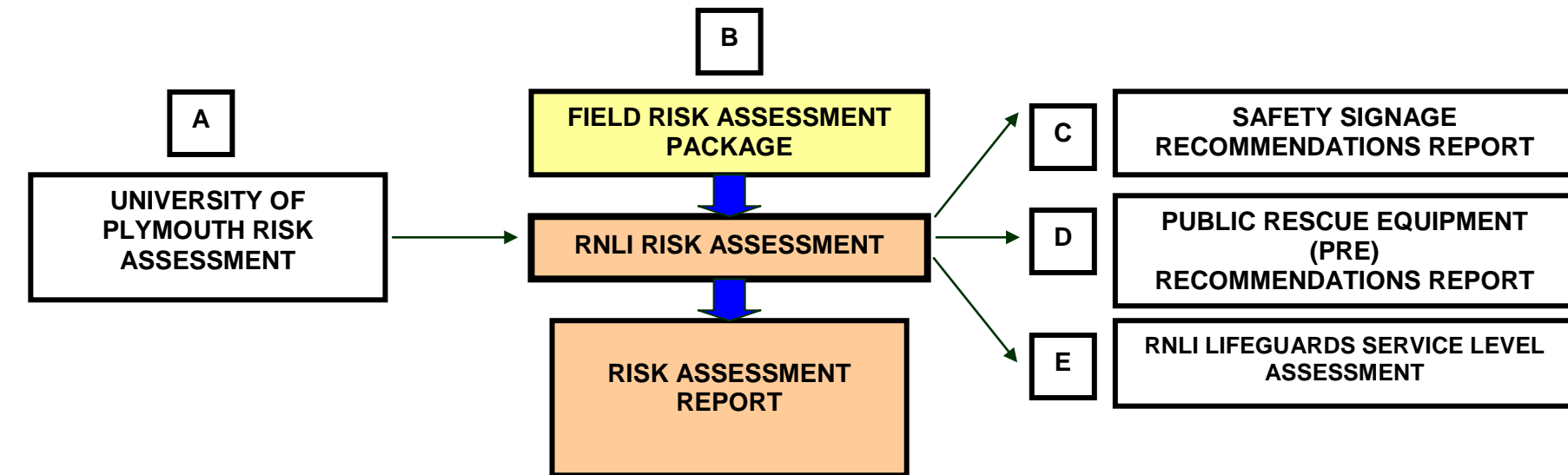
Section 1: Introduction to the RNLI

1.0 Introduction to the RNLI

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a registered charity that saves lives at sea. It provides, on call, a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service up to 100 nautical miles out from the coast of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland and a beach lifeguard service on appropriate beaches in the South, East and West of England, Wales and in Northern Ireland.

The RNLI Lifeguards have developed a “total service” concept where a drowning prevention strategy is used to control risk. Conducting a risk assessment is the first step to improving safety on the beach.

The RNLI offer a full suite of risk assessment services to local authorities and beach managers:



THIS REPORT CONTAINS A FULL SAFETY SIGNAGE REPORT (REPORT C)

The University of Plymouth risk assessment is based on a beach safety and management programme developed in Australia. The Australian model is acknowledged as the world's best and will be used as a benchmark.

Field risk assessment package: This package provides the user with a toolkit to conduct an assessment of risk based on history and observation.

The RNLI provides a series of specialist reports based on best practice and national standard guidance. Reports C (Safety Signage) and D (PRE) are available on request. Report E (RNLI Lifeguards Service Level Assessment) is only available to beach operators who are exploring the option of the RNLI providing a lifeguard service.

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Section 2: Background Information

**National Guideline PRE
About this Report**

2.0 Background Information

2.1 National Guideline Public Rescue Equipment

With some of Europe's finest and safest beaches, it is unsurprising that millions of people enjoy the UK coastline every year. However, with an increasing trend for recreation activity on our beaches and inshore waters, particularly outside of the traditional bathing season it is more important than ever to provide effective PRE to be used as a last resort.

The RNLI, working closely with members of NWSF and other safety organisations have produced a guide for coastal public rescue equipment [PRE]; guidance that beach operators have requested to help manage their beaches safely.

Historically, there have been no standards and very little guidance for PRE to help assist coastal managers determine and plan their PRE requirements and therefore much of the equipment found in the UK has probably not been fit for purpose. The aim of this report is to help beach operators make better-informed decisions for their PRE requirements.

2.2 About this Report

On the 31 Aug 2011, Lee Fisher, RNLI, and Darren Lewis, RNLI, visited Ventnor Beach to suggest recommendations relating to PRE. This visit was prompted as a result of an invitation from Ventnor Town Council.

Ventnor Town Council has asked for advice about the PRE along its coastline. The aim of the visit was to recommend suggestions and to exchange ideas to help improve the PRE provision.

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Section 3: Basic PRE Information

**Types of PRE
Emergency Communications**

3.0 Basic PRE Information

3.1 Types of PRE

Extensive research conducted by the RNLI has determined the 3 most effective types of PRE. These can be used across a range of coastal environments:

Coastal Environment Type	Type(s) of PRE Recommended		
	 18-24" Life ring	 25-32" Life ring	 Throw bag
Rocky coasts, tidal inlets & estuaries	✓		✓
Man-made coasts	✓	✓	
Shallow shelving beaches	<i>PRE not usually effective on this beach type</i>		
Medium and/or steeply shelving beaches	✓		

NB. Some exceptions apply. For further information and exact specifications for each type of guideline PRE please refer to the RNLI's 'Guide to Coastal Public Rescue Equipment'.

3.2 Emergency Communications

Emergency communication points form part of PRE at coastal locations. Although many people carry mobile telephones there can often be problems with network coverage on the coast and therefore the most effective way to ensure that a member of the public can contact the emergency services is to install a fixed point emergency telephone device. Calling from a fixed point telephone also helps the emergency services to locate where an incident is taking place.

Recommended types of Emergency communication products:



Emergency telephone



GSM-based emergency telephone

For more information on the advantages and disadvantages of the different products available please refer to the RNLI's '*Guide to Coastal Public Rescue Equipment*'.

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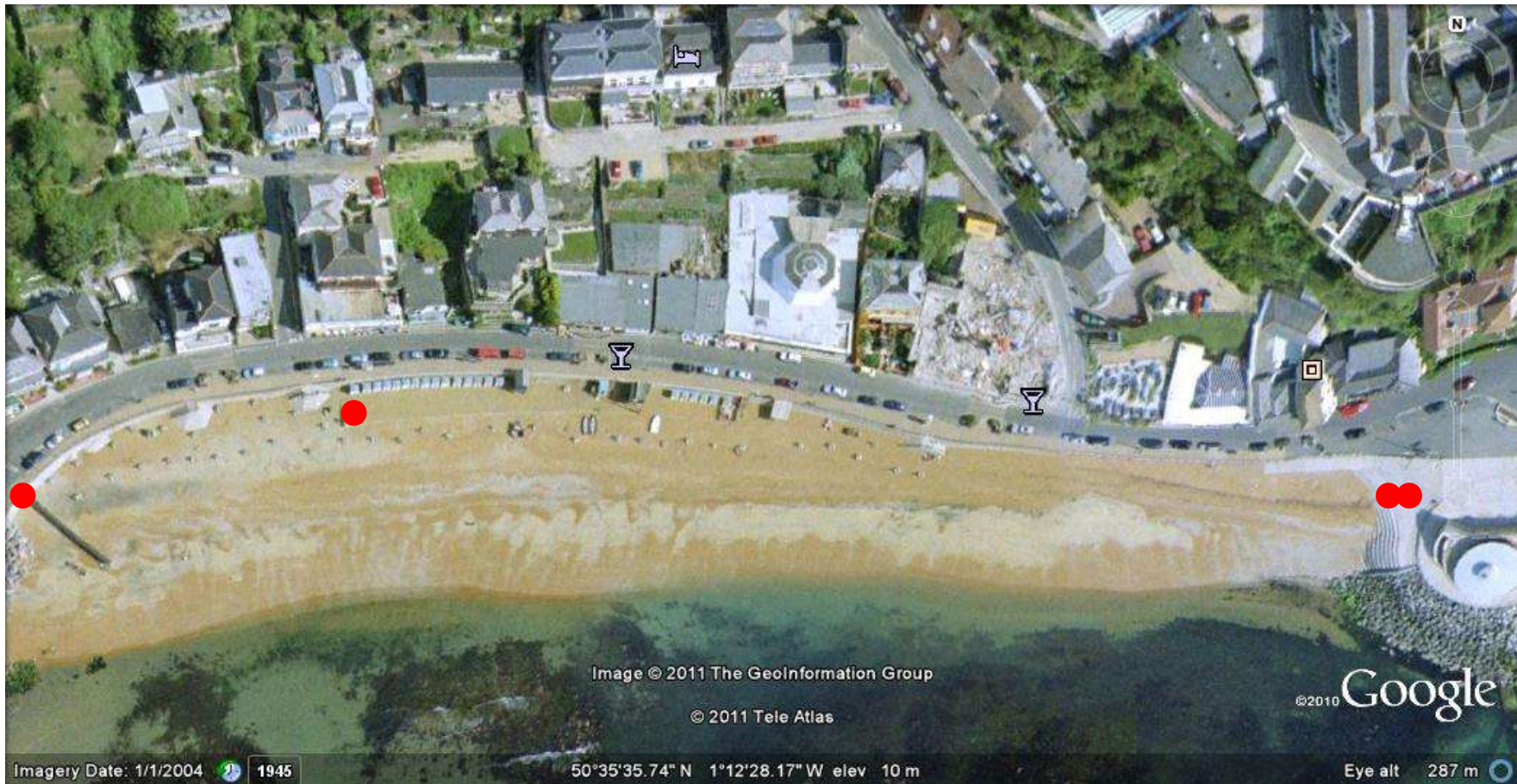


Section 4: PRE Recommendations



**Map of PRE Points
PRE Recommendations by Point**

4.0 PRE Recommendations



4.1 Map of PRE Points





4.2 PRE Recommendations by Point

<p>PRE Point 1: Small perry bouy contained In housing attached to railings on promenade at western end of beach, by large groyne.</p>	<p>Description of existing PRE: Life ring (national guideline standard)</p> <div data-bbox="1133 370 1503 647">  </div> <div data-bbox="1727 370 2096 647">  </div>
<p>GPS Co-ordinates: NA</p>	<p>Photo/map/description of suggested site: Current location is acceptable</p>
<p>Type of PRE/Emergency comms device recommended: 18-24" Life ring (as currently used)</p>	
<p>Recommendations for upgrading existing PRE: Upgrade rope to standard contained within guide Include area dialling code on PRE housing centre disk "If missing or damaged tel: "</p>	

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<p>PRE Point 2: Small perry bouy (24") contained In housing situated in the middle of Ventnor beach by the western end of the beach chalets.</p>	<p>Description of existing PRE: Life ring (national guideline standard)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>GPS Co-ordinates: NA</p>	<p>Photo/map/description of suggested site: Current location is acceptable</p>
<p>Type of PRE/Emergency comms device recommended: 18-24" Life ring (as currently used)</p>	
<p>Recommendations for upgrading existing PRE: Upgrade rope to standard contained within guide Add reflective tape to PRE Include area dialling code on PRE housing centre disk "If missing or damaged tel: "</p>	

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<p>PRE Point 3: Small perry bouy contained In housing attached to railings on promenade at eastern end of beach by steps and pumping station.</p>	<p>Description of existing PRE: Life ring (national guideline standard)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>GPS Co-ordinates: NA</p>	<p>Photo/map/description of suggested site: Current location is acceptable</p>
<p>Type of PRE/Emergency comms device recommended: 18-24" Life ring (as currently used)</p>	
<p>Recommendations for upgrading existing PRE: Upgrade rope to standard contained within guide Add reflective tape to PRE Include area dialling code on PRE housing centre disk "If missing or damaged tel: "</p>	

<p>PRE Point 4: Emergency telephone located on information board at Eastern end of promenade by pumping station, Although a large sign it is somewhat obscured by other street furniture present at this location.</p>	<p>Description of existing PRE: Emergency Telephone (national guidance)</p> <div data-bbox="1133 335 1503 614" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1720 335 2096 614" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>GPS Co-ordinates: NA</p>	<p>Photo/map/description of suggested site: Current location is acceptable. Consider incorporating the Emergency Telephone into the nearby beach safety information board, to give a single focal point and reduce signage clutter. Alternatively I would recommend reviewing the surrounding street furniture to make sure the sign is highly visible from all parts of the beach.</p>
<p>Type of PRE/Emergency comms device recommended: Emergency Telephone (as currently used)</p>	
<p>Recommendations for upgrading existing PRE: Consider integrating phone into beach safety sign</p>	

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Section 5: Next Steps

**Action Plan to be completed by managing authority
Further Reports Recommended**

5.0 Next Steps

5.1 Action Plan to be completed by managing authority

Action	Persons responsible for completion of action	Date for completion
Agree and approve type and location of PRE		
Arrange for RNLI to view and feedback on plans		
Determine funding of PRE with LA, sponsors etc...		
Establish the management of PRE (maintenance, repairs, MCA codes and inspections)		
Arrange installation of PRE		

5.2 Further Reports Recommended

The RNLI offers a range of beach safety management tools. These include a full suite of beach safety audits as outlined in section 1 of this report. Subsequent to the completion of the PRE audit it is suggested that the management authority consider undertaking the following:

Service Level

This is only available to management authorities who are interested in contracting their lifeguard service out to the RNLI. A service level report explores the existing patrol set up and informs the RNLI in planning equipment and staffing levels.

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Section 6: Conclusions from visit

6.0 Conclusions from visit

Recommendations have been made with respect to Public Rescue Equipment. For further guidance on on-going maintenance please refer to the RNLI's *"Guide to Coastal Public Rescue Equipment"*.

A routine inspection programme to include signage and public rescue equipment should be carried out.

In relation to funding, it may also be useful to identify and develop possible external funding sources via sponsors i.e. local businesses on the seafront or tourist attractions.

Further advice please contact:

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Please note – All advice is given as recommendations only and does not constitute any formal agreements.

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