

Slideshow

The Coastguard is responsible for the safety of the UK's coastal waters.

It's their job to try and stop accidents from happening and to get help sent to people if they do.

There are coastguards working in the coastguard stations 24 hours a day.

They use high-tech equipment to monitor the sea and coast, looking and listening out for problems.

They also organise rescues at sea. If a ship gets into difficulties in bad weather they will send out lifeboats and rescue helicopters.

The coastguard rescue officers who help people that get into difficulties at sea or along the coast are all volunteers.

They are trained to rescue people from all sorts of dangerous situations that could occur around the coast, like getting trapped on cliffs.

They also have special equipment so they can travel safely over deep mud to save people who have become stuck.

Coastguard rescue officers often have to search the shoreline for missing people.

Sometimes a rescue from the sea, or somewhere difficult to get to, means calling out a rescue helicopter.

The coastguard also helps to prevent pollution from ships at sea, and clean up the coast after accidents.

The coastguard is contacted whenever divers recover valuable or interesting things from a shipwreck.

Be 'sea smart' and learn how to be safe before you go to the beach. In an emergency at the coast, call 999 and ask for the coastguard.

