



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

## OPERATIONAL NOTE

Press Notice No: 335/08

20 October 2008

### **EXERCISE SOLFIRE: TESTING THE EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONSE**

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) alongside other emergency responders are testing their response tomorrow to a maritime emergency.

The scenario is that a small sightseeing ship runs in to difficulties around the Needles channel. Passengers and crew abandon ship whilst a 'mayday' communications activates a major air, sea and land search for survivors and victims.

You are invited to send a representative or photographer/film crew to view teams from the MCA, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, South Central Ambulance Service, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Hampshire Search and Rescue and Lowland Search Dogs (Southern) at work.

**Where? HURST SPIT, near MILFORD-ON-SEA**

**When? TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2008**

**What time? 1100 – Survivors appear on the shore at Hurst Spit  
(Arrive at 1000, Milford on Sea Car Park, Hurst Road East)**

We would be very grateful if you could notify us of your intention to accept this invitation by close of play Monday 20 October to Maggie Hill (023 8032 9401) or [maggie.hill@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:maggie.hill@mcga.gov.uk)

**For further information please contact  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency Press Office, on:  
(023) 8032 9401**