



# RNLI

Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard

## The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is the charity that saves lives at sea

It provides, on call, a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service to 100 nautical miles out from the coast of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. It also provides a seasonal lifeguard service on beaches in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Jersey. The RNLI is independent from Government and continues to rely on voluntary contributions and legacies for its income.

### Purpose, Vision and Values

#### Purpose:

The RNLI saves lives at sea.

#### Vision:

To end preventable loss of life at sea.

#### Values:

Our work is based on and driven by our values. Our volunteers and staff strive for excellence and are ...

**Selfless:** willing to put the requirements of others before our own and the needs of the team before the individual, able to see the bigger picture and act in the best interests of the RNLI, and to be inclusive and respectful of others. Prepared to share our expertise with organisations that share our aims.

**Dependable:** always available, committed to doing our part in saving lives with professionalism and expertise, continuously developing and improving. Working in and for the community and delivering on our promises.

**Trustworthy:** responsible, accountable and efficient in the use of the donations entrusted to us by our supporters, managing our affairs with transparency, integrity and impartiality.

**Courageous:** prepared to achieve our aims in changing and challenging environments. We are innovative, adaptable and determined in our mission to save more lives at sea.



### Our volunteer ethos

The RNLI depends on volunteers, who make up 95% of our people. Many thousands of people give their time, skill and commitment to help the RNLI save lives at sea.

It is because of the willingness of RNLI volunteers that such a high proportion of the RNLI's money can be spent on first-class lifeboats and equipment.

The RNLI sets great store by the voluntary spirit of the whole institution and would resist any change to this.

### Services in 2011

#### RNLI lifeboats

**8,905** launches  
average 24 a day

**354** lives saved

**7,976** people rescued  
average 22 a day

#### RNLI lifeguards

**15,625** incidents

**84** lives saved

**17,671** people assisted

Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, its lifeboats, and since 2001, its lifeguards, have saved more than 139,000 lives.

More and more people are using beaches and the sea for leisure and RNLI crews and lifeguards are responding to an increased number of incidents.

In 2011, 51.2% of launches were to leisure craft users, 31.4% to people not using any kind of craft, 9.8% to merchant or fishing vessels and 7.6% to other sea users.

Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard



## RNLI TO THE RESCUE

### Lifeboat crews

There are over 4,600 lifeboat crew members in the UK and RoI, 8% of whom are women. They are mostly volunteers who come from all walks of life within their local communities – from priests to tattooists, they will readily exchange leisure, comfort and sleep for cold, wet and fatigue. Crews spend many hours of their own time training to become highly skilled and efficient, as their lifesaving work is essential, often difficult and sometimes dangerous.

### Lifeguards

The RNLI's lifeguards patrol over 180 beaches in the UK and Channel Islands. Preventing accidents before they happen is over 95% of a lifeguard's job.

The RNLI lifeguard service operates a fleet of inshore rescue boats, rescue watercraft and four-wheel drive vehicles. Each lifeguard unit is equipped with rescue boards, rescue tubes, first aid kits, defibrillators and various other items of essential lifesaving equipment.

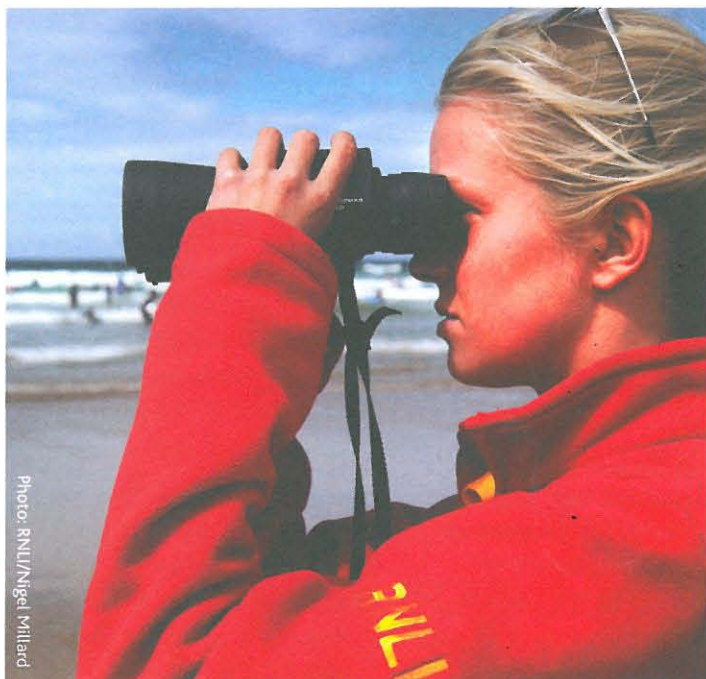


Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard

### Ready to launch

When someone dials 999 or 112 in an emergency, the call is directed to the appropriate emergency service. For marine incidents, UK calls go to HM Coastguard (part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency) or in the RoI, the Irish Coast Guard. They then contact the Lifeboat Operations Manager of the appropriate lifeboat station and request the launch of the lifeboat. Lifeboat crew members are alerted by pager. The lifeboat crew stop whatever they are doing and arrive at the lifeboat station within minutes of the alarm being raised.

To receive computer or mobile phone alerts whenever there is an RNLI lifeboat launch, go to [rnli.org/desktoppager](http://rnli.org/desktoppager).



Photo: RNLI/Robin Goodhead

### Flood rescue

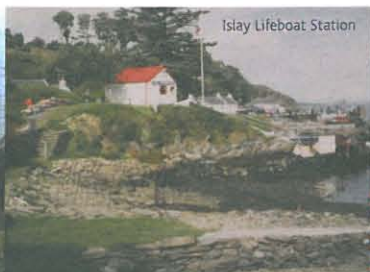
The RNLI's Flood Rescue Team (FRT) is a group of specially trained volunteers and staff ready to carry out search and rescue operations in severe flooding situations throughout the UK and RoI.

There are 300 FRT members in total, covering all the RNLI's divisions. Around 60 of those have had additional training in order to be able to undertake flood rescue in other countries.

Padstow Lifeboat Station



Islay Lifeboat Station



Tower Lifeboat Station



St Helier Lifeboat Station



## The ring of safety

There are 236 RNLI lifeboat stations (including two on trial) strategically placed around the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Of these, four are on the River Thames in London, and another four are inland water stations. The RNLI operates over 180 lifeguard units on UK and Channel Island beaches.

The RNLI's Shoreworks section is in charge of building and maintaining station and lifeguard facilities.

## A network of support

Volunteer shore crew form a vital part of the rescue team. They assist with the launch and recovery of the lifeboat, sometimes being appointed to specific tasks, such as tractor driver, depending on the way the lifeboat is launched.

Each station is supported by a voluntary lifeboat management group, with local people taking key roles. A crucial figure is the Lifeboat Operations Manager (LOM), who has responsibility for authorising the launch of the lifeboat and the day-to-day management of the station.

Most lifeboat stations have a voluntary lifeboat press officer (LPO), who acts as a link with local press, TV and radio. LPOs are supported by Communications staff, helping to maintain a positive awareness and understanding of the RNLI in their community and beyond.

Volunteer lifeboat visits officers (LVOs) promote the work of their lifeboat stations to local people, tourists and visiting groups.

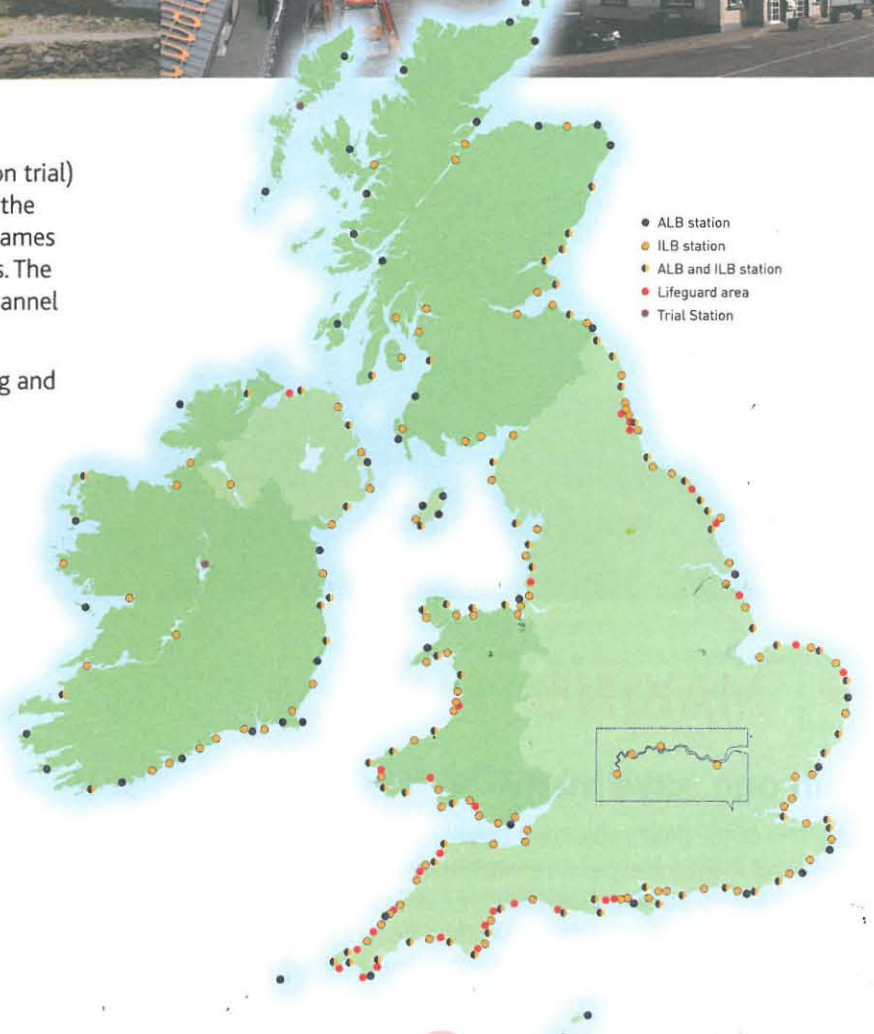


Photo: Joe McNulty



## Lifesaving equipment

All-weather lifeboats	
Shannon class (new carriage-launched lifeboat)	£1.5M
Inshore lifeboats	
Rescue watercraft	£9,000
Lifeguard inshore rescue boat	£9,000
D class inflatable	£39,000
B class Atlantic 85 RIB	£204,000

All-weather lifeboat crew kit	
Gloves	£8
Safety boots	£42
Helmet	£172
Trousers	£168
Jacket	£232
Lifejacket	£350
Pager	£150

Inshore lifeboat crew kit	
Gloves	£8
Thermal suit	£160
Helmet	£172
Drysuit	£249
Lifejacket	£330
Pager	£150

Lifeguard kit	
Shirt	£7
Swimming trunks	£18
First aid kit	£75
Full wetsuit	£85



Photos: RNLI/Chris Walker



## → MAKING IT WORK

### Train one, save many

Today, few of the RNLI's volunteer crew members have any professional maritime experience when they join, and only some have recreational boating experience. The skills they need range from navigation to search and rescue; from being able to repair a lifeboat engine at sea to resuscitating someone who has stopped breathing. These skills can save the life of someone at sea.

It is essential that the RNLI offers the best training it can. The RNLI's competence-based training provides crew members with comprehensive courses and recognised qualifications.

These high standards are being maintained and developed with the help of the training staff and facilities at RNLI College, in Poole, Dorset, which complements training around the coast. This central facility provides accommodation, classrooms, distance learning resources and the Sea Survival Centre with its wave tank, full bridge simulator, live engine workshop and firefighting simulator.

### Volunteers

Volunteers have always been, and remain, fundamental to the RNLI. The charity has tens of thousands of volunteers performing over 200 roles, ranging from shore crew to accountancy. They all perform essential tasks that help the RNLI save lives at sea.

### Staff

The RNLI could not run as effectively as it does without its staff, who are based at divisional and regional offices and the charity's Headquarters in Poole.

Staff members include lifeboat designers and engineers, crew and lifeguard trainers, surveyors, fundraisers and administrators.

The Lifeboat Support Centre in Poole stores and distributes the 750,000 items needed to run every lifeboat, station, lifeguard unit and fundraising office in the UK and RoI. A round-the-clock system can dispatch parts within 30 minutes.

Specialist engineers, surveyors and electronics and training experts look after the requirements of stations in their division.

### Governance

The RNLI's work is directed by the Trustee Committee, made up of volunteers with skills and experience of particular relevance to the RNLI. The Committee is elected by the Council, which also provides guidance and advice to the Trustees.

### Teamwork

In the UK, depending on the type of casualty and the location, HM Coastguard may decide to call on one of its own search and rescue (SAR) helicopters, request a military SAR helicopter or call on a Coastguard mud/cliff rescue team to work with the lifeboat. In the RoI, SAR units are coordinated by the Irish Coast Guard.

Helicopters can reach casualties more quickly further out to sea, but lifeboats can stay at sea for longer, carry more survivors, tow boats and launch quickly to local incidents.

Some rescues rely on the teamwork of lifeboat and helicopter crews or other rescue teams. Training exercises help crews and lifeguards get used to working with other SAR teams.





# SPREADING THE WORD

## Coastal safety

The RNLI aims to save lives by promoting a safety culture among people who use the sea, particularly targeting beach users, the leisure boat community and commercial fishermen.

Statistics are used to target those most at risk and to prioritise the work of the charity.

Safety messages and advice are delivered by teams of volunteers in various ways, such as presentations

and demonstrations of safety equipment to clubs, roadshows at events and through a free safety advisory scheme called SEA Check.

The beach safety programme aims to save lives through educating beach users and raising safety awareness.

The RNLI also encourages beach users to choose lifeguarded beaches, read beach safety signs and to think about the tides. With the increase of water sports such as kitesurfing, the RNLI is working with these sea users as well.



Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard



Photo: RNLI/Cheryl Lammiman

## A proud history

Since it was founded in 1824, as the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, there have been countless examples of courage, selflessness and dedication – qualities still shown by the people of the RNLI today.

The RNLI Heritage Trust was set up in 2004 to preserve and promote the RNLI's heritage, past, present and future. The trust is a subsidiary charity of the RNLI which, with the help of volunteers, manages 6 RNLI museums and 23 historic lifeboats, as well as extensive collections and archives. External heritage funding has enabled museums celebrating Henry Blogg (pictured right) at Cromer and Grace Darling at Bamburgh to be redeveloped in new buildings with family-friendly displays. Eastbourne, Whitby and Zetland museums are set in their original boathouses while Chatham Historic Dockyard holds the RNLI Historic Lifeboat Collection. Find out more about the museums at [RNLI.org/heritage](http://RNLI.org/heritage).

Historic items are also displayed in some lifeboat stations and visitor centres, some with free access and pre-booked tours available.



Photo: Mike Rushworth

## Youth engagement

Raising awareness, particularly among young people, is vital, as they will be the crews, fundraisers and supporters of the future. The RNLI educates children and young people about its work, how they can help and how to stay safe on or by the sea. Regional education managers work with teams of volunteers and RNLI lifesavers to run a variety of educational initiatives. For more information visit our website.

## Public relations

The public are made aware of the work of volunteer crews, fundraisers and specialist staff through local, regional, national and, increasingly, social media. Our charity also raises awareness of its work through publications, events and website, [RNLI.org](http://RNLI.org).



Photo: Associated Press



# THE FLEET

The RNLI has an active fleet of over 330 lifeboats, ranging from 5–17m in length, as well as a relief fleet. There are also four active and three relief hovercraft. Lifeguards operate purpose-designed powered craft.

RNLI lifeboats are divided into two categories: all-weather and inshore. Different classes of lifeboat are needed for various locations, depending on geographical features, the kind of rescue work that

the station is asked to do and the cover provided by neighbouring stations.

Hovercraft, introduced into the RNLI fleet in 2002, can operate in areas inaccessible to conventional lifeboats.

RNLI designers and engineers develop new classes of lifeboat and make improvements to existing ones, to meet the changing needs of the lifeboat service. The new Shannon class carriage-launched all-weather lifeboat is due to enter the fleet in 2013.



## All-weather lifeboats

All-weather lifeboats (ALBs) are capable of high speed but can be operated safely in atrocious weather. They are inherently self-righting after a capsize and fitted with navigation, location and communication equipment. The RNLI allows its ALBs a working life of around 25 years.



### TYNE

The RNLI's first 'fast' slipway lifeboat was introduced in 1982, but the Tyne is also capable of lying afloat. Features include a low - profile wheelhouse and a separate cabin aft of the upper steering position. The propellers are protected by substantial bilge keels. The last Tyne was built in 1990.

Length: 14m; speed: 17 knots; range: 240 nautical miles; construction: steel; crew: 6; weight: 25 tonnes; launch: slipway or moored afloat.



### MERSEY

Introduced in 1988 as the RNLI's first 'fast' carriage lifeboat, the Mersey can also lie afloat or slipway-launch if required. A slightly 'boxy' wheelhouse is set well aft and the sheerline is flattened towards the bow. The propellers are protected by partial tunnels and substantial bilge keels. Last built in 1993.

Length: 12m; speed: 17 knots; range: 140 nautical miles; construction: aluminium or fibre reinforced composite (FRC); crew: 6; weight: 13 tonnes; launch: slipway or moored afloat.



### TRENT

The 1994-introduced Trent has the same hull shape as the Severn class but is smaller. The sheerline sweeps down for ease of survivor recovery. Last built in 2003.

Length: 14m; speed: 25 knots; range: 250 nautical miles; construction: FRC; crew: 6; weight: 27.5 tonnes; launch: moored afloat.



### SEVERN

The Severn class lifeboat was introduced in 1995 and is still the largest lifeboat in the fleet. It carries a Y class inflatable that can be launched with a crane. The Severn has the same hull shape as the Trent class. Last built in 2004.

Length: 17m; speed: 25 knots; range: 250 nautical miles; construction: FRC; crew: 6; weight: 41 tonnes; launch: moored afloat.



### TAMAR

The Tamar is gradually replacing the Tyne. Designed to be launched from a slipway, the Tamar can also lie afloat. A computerised Systems and Information Management System (SIMS) is installed, so many of the onboard controls can be operated from any position and the crew can remain in their ergonomic seats for longer, further improving their safety.

Length: 16m; speed: 25 knots; range: 250 nautical miles; construction: FRP; crew: 6; weight: 30 tonnes.

## Lifeguard craft



### RESCUE WATERCRAFT (RWC)

In service with the RNLI since 2002, the current RWC is a modified branded model with rescue sled.

Very quick, agile and durable, it can

be deployed rapidly and operated by one lifeguard. RWCs are in use at many RNLI lifeguarded beaches as well as Enniskillen and Bude lifeboat stations.



### INSHORE RESCUE BOAT (IRB)

IRBs are in use worldwide. Brought into the RNLI in 2001, they are now the lifeguards' workhorse. They are now hand-built at the Inshore Lifeboat

Centre in East Cowes under licence. Sturdy enough for heavy surf conditions, IRBs are still light enough for just two people to launch. They are also used by lifeboat crews at Criccieth, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, and by the Flood Rescue Team.



## Inshore lifeboats

Inshore lifeboats (ILBs) usually operate closer to shore than ALBs, in shallower water, close to cliffs, among rocks or even in caves.



### ATLANTIC 75 (B CLASS)

This rigid inflatable lifeboat came into the fleet to replace the Atlantic 21 (the last of which left service early in 2008) in 1993. Crew can right the craft using an inflatable bag should it capsize, and the engines are inversion-proofed to restart from wet. Launchable in conditions to force 7, the '75' is derived from a length of nearly 7.5m.

Speed: 32 knots; endurance: 3 hours max; construction: glass-reinforce plastic (GRP); crew: 3; weight: 1.7 tonnes; engine: 2 x 75hp; launch: trolley; floating boathouse or davit.



### ATLANTIC 85 (B CLASS)

This latest version of the B class was introduced in 2005. It is larger than its predecessor, has a faster top speed, radar, VHF direction finder, provision for a fourth crew member, and more survivor space. Operational in daylight up to force 7, and at night to force 6.

Length: 8.5m; speed: 35 knots; endurance: 3 hours max; construction: FRC; crew: 3-4; weight: 1.8 tonnes; engine: 2 x 115hp; launch: trolley; floating boathouse or davit.



### D CLASS

In service since 1963, this inflatable is the smallest lifeboat in the fleet. Ideal for rescues close to shore in fair to moderate conditions, it has a single 50hp outboard engine and can be righted manually by the crew after a capsize. The design of the D class has continued to evolve since its introduction. The figures below are for the latest version (the IB1-type), which was introduced in 2003.

Length: 5m; speed: 25 knots; endurance: 3 hours max; construction: Hypalon-coated polyester; crew: 2-3; weight 436kg; launch: trolley or davit.



### E CLASS

Introduced in 2002, the E class fast response lifeboat is the fastest lifeboat in the fleet. Powered by waterjets and kept afloat, all the RNLI E class lifeboats are stationed on the River Thames. A new version of the E class went operational in 2011.

Length: 9m; speed: 40 knots; endurance: 4 hours at maximum speed; construction: aluminium alloy with closed cell polythene foam collar; crew: 3; weight: 3.5 tonnes; launch: moored afloat.



### HOVERCRAFT

Introduced to the fleet in 2002, hovercraft can operate in areas of mud, sand and very shallow water – useful for shoreline searches. Lift is provided by air pressure under the craft and thrust by two large rear-mounted fans. Steering is by aerofoil-shaped 'rudders' located behind the propellers.

Length: 8m, speed: 30 knots; endurance: 3 hours at maximum speed; construction: marine grade aluminium with moulded FRC; crew: 2-4; weight: 2.4 tonnes; launch: bespoke transporter.

## Launching

There are three main ways of launching an all-weather lifeboat: from a mooring; down a slipway; or from a carriage, hauled across a beach by a tractor. Shore crew help with slipway and carriage launches.

Inshore lifeboats differ. The D class can usually be manhandled into the water from a trolley. Larger B class Atlantics launch by tractor-hauled DoDo (drive on drive off) carriage, by shore-mounted crane (davit) or from a floating boathouse.

Hovercraft can launch from any flat area, such as a car park or beach, provided there is enough room. Specialist transporter vehicles move them between sites.



# → MONEY MATTERS

Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard



**15p**  
in every pound  
donated is  
reinvested to  
generate more  
funds

**85p**  
in every pound  
donated goes to  
the rescue service

## Daily running costs

The RNLI costs £385,000 to run every day. For every £1 that the RNLI raises, 85p goes to the rescue service. The other 15p is reinvested to generate more funds.

## Fundraising

In 1891, the RNLI became the first charity to organise a street collection, marking the beginning of a strong fundraising tradition.

Now all sorts of fundraising activities, including raft races, coffee mornings, suppers, bungee jumps and sponsored runs, are organised across the UK and RoI.

Fundraising carries on all year long, with thousands of volunteers lending their time and talents to boost funds for the RNLI. For more information on giving time to help the RNLI raise crucial funds, visit [RNLI.org/volunteeringzone](http://RNLI.org/volunteeringzone).



## Gifts in Wills

Gifts in Wills all help our volunteers stay safe and save more lives. More information on legacies is available from the RNLI Legacy Enquiries Officer at Headquarters (see contact details below).

## RNLIshop

Thanks to the help of volunteers, the charity's shops are highly successful alongside its mail order business, which boost funds and public support. These shops are found at many lifeboat stations – to find your nearest RNLI shop visit our website.

## Members and supporters

Supporters are the lifeblood of the RNLI. While many people make an occasional or regular donation, more than a quarter of a million have committed to membership: Shoreline, Offshore or Governor.

The RNLI relies on other organisations, such as companies and trusts, for support too. Employees can support the charity through payroll giving.

There are some 1,000 fundraising branches and guilds throughout the UK and RoI. Centred around friendship and fun, they help raise funds to save lives at sea, and give members a rewarding sense of achievement. Many branches and guilds have close links with lifeboat stations, which helps generate support and enthusiasm.

The RNLI is grateful to all supporters, however they choose to demonstrate their commitment.

## People like you!

The RNLI needs people like you so that it can continue to save lives at sea. Committed supporters and volunteers make the charity what it is today. Can you help too?



From launching lifeboats to raising vital funds and awareness, or using professional skills in our offices, there are a wide variety of volunteer roles available. We also run a successful Internship programme that is open to both graduates and those with work experience.

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

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