

FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE

DERRY is a city divided in two by the River Foyle.

The **RIVER FOYLE** is tidal, fast flowing (15 knots), cold, with many currents and undercurrents, and is up to 800 metres wide in places.

BRIDGES

Two bridges span the river: Craigavon Bridge (40 foot high double-decker road bridge) and Foyle Bridge (45 metre high haunched box girder road bridge).

THE BEGINNING:

Foyle Search and Rescue was founded in the City of Derry (Londonderry), Northern Ireland, in 1993 in response to 35-40 suicide by rowing deaths annually in the River Foyle as it flows through the city.

LIFESAVING ACTIONS

Shore patrols to intercept possible suicides before they enter the river
On-water rescue boats to remove casualties from the water
Search operations for people believed to be in the river
Lifebelts at key sites are alarmed and monitored by CCTV
Trained help offered to persons considering suicide
Support to the families of those who have died by suicide
Information visits to schools and youth organisations

LIFESAVING DUTY

Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 9.30 pm to 3.00 am
Teams of three volunteers patrol the two bridges on foot with a back-up 4 X 4 vehicle.
A third team crew a rescue boat on patrol in the river.

Two Emergency Response Teams of 7 volunteers, on call-out by pager outside of these times
7 minute 'boat ready' call-out response time

FOYLE SEARCH & RESCUE has two bases, upriver at **Prehen**, (headquarters - a modern three-storey structure with a boathouse, radio room, meeting facilities and an all-tidal floating pontoon) and downriver at **Gillands** which has a slipway launch site for their second boat.