# Heroic holidaymakers rescue nine after Lechlade Thames boat explosion



A sudden explosion on the River Thames in Lechlade led to a dramatic rescue effort on Saturday, May 31, with emergency services and courageous bystanders coming together to save lives. Approximately midday, a boat caught fire, forcing all nine individuals on board—five adults and four children aged between 18 months and seven years—to leap into the river, even though some could not swim. Police have praised the "heroic bravery" of holidaymakers from Wales who intervened and assisted the victims, a timely act that likely prevented fatalities.

All nine passengers were subsequently taken to hospital, where three remain in a stable condition. Disturbingly, two of those still being treated, one of whom is an 18-month-old child, have sustained what police described as "potentially life-changing burns." As investigations continue, police are yet to determine the cause of the explosion.

In response to the incident, a cordon was established around the site to facilitate recovery efforts and inquiries. This precautionary measure has now been lifted, providing some relief to local residents. Detective Superintendent Joe Garrity from Wiltshire Police has expressed his thoughts for those affected, stating that it is “a miracle there were no fatalities.” He emphasized the selflessness of the rescue efforts, particularly praising the quick actions of the two holidaymakers who leapt into the water risking their own safety.

This incident echoes previous boat-related tragedies in the region. For example, in July 2015, an explosion at Bray Lock, Buckinghamshire, injured seven individuals, including children, highlighting ongoing concerns about safety on watercraft. Similarly, a houseboat fire in November 2024 at Lechlade Marina tragically resulted in a man's death, underscoring the inherent dangers associated with boating. These events speak to a broader issue of maritime safety, prompting calls for stricter regulations and awareness campaigns to prevent future incidents.

Locally, the Thames has its share of history related to potential dangers. Just a few years earlier, an evacuation occurred when a suspected grenade was discovered in the river, necessitating a controlled explosion. Such instances remind us of the unpredictable nature of the waterways, intensifying the need for vigilance among both users and authorities.

As investigations into the recent Lechlade incident continue, police are appealing for anyone with information to come forward, quoting log 129 of May 31. The public's awareness and prompt reporting can be crucial in enhancing safety measures that may prevent future emergencies.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25209233.boat-explosion-river-thames-injured-nine-fire/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25209233.boat-explosion-river-thames-injured-nine-fire/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-33751590)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/8954044.explosion-and-fire-rip-through-boat-at-harleyford-estate-in-marlow/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8drkvzmlxo), [[6]](https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/news/gloucestershire/2024/november/appeal-after-man-dies-following-house-boat-fire-in-lechlade/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25209233.boat-explosion-river-thames-injured-nine-fire/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-33751590> - In July 2015, a boat explosion occurred at Bray Lock in Taplow, Buckinghamshire, injuring seven people, including two children. The explosion took place at approximately 12:40 BST, with victims ranging from their 30s to a three-year-old boy. A nearby rented boat assisted the injured until emergency services arrived. Thames Valley Police initiated an investigation into the incident. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-33751590?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8drkvzmlxo> - In November 2024, a houseboat fire at Lechlade Marina in Gloucestershire resulted in the death of a man on board. Emergency services responded to the blaze at around 06:30 GMT. The cause of the fire was under investigation, and police appealed for information from anyone in the area from about 06:00. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8drkvzmlxo?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/live-a361-closed-pub-evacuated-5340633> - In April 2021, a suspected grenade was discovered in the River Thames near Lechlade, Gloucestershire. The A361 was closed, and The Riverside pub was evacuated as a precaution. A bomb disposal team attended the scene and destroyed the suspected grenade in a controlled explosion. The closures were lifted, and the pub reopened. ([gloucestershirelive.co.uk](https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/live-a361-closed-pub-evacuated-5340633?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/8954044.explosion-and-fire-rip-through-boat-at-harleyford-estate-in-marlow/> - In the early hours of a morning, an explosion and fire occurred on a 14-foot pleasure boat moored at the Harleyford Estate in Marlow. A nearby resident heard the explosion, believed to be caused by a gas cylinder on the boat. Firefighters managed to control the blaze, preventing significant damage to adjacent boats. The cause of the fire was under investigation by Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service. ([bucksfreepress.co.uk](https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/8954044.explosion-and-fire-rip-through-boat-at-harleyford-estate-in-marlow/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/news/gloucestershire/2024/november/appeal-after-man-dies-following-house-boat-fire-in-lechlade/> - In November 2024, a man died following a houseboat fire at Lechlade Marina. Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service responded to the blaze at around 6:30am. Despite efforts from emergency services, the man, who had been on board the boat, died. The cause of the fire was under investigation, and police appealed for information from anyone in the area from around 6am. ([gloucestershire.police.uk](https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/news/gloucestershire/2024/november/appeal-after-man-dies-following-house-boat-fire-in-lechlade/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-33951660> - In August 2015, a leisure boat was deliberately set on fire in the centre of Oxford. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service crews responded to the incident at 15:30 BST on a Saturday. Firefighters managed to prevent the hull from sinking and minimise the environmental impact. Thames Valley Police treated the incident as suspicious. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-33951660?utm_source=openai))