



Client: Richard Primrose Insurers

### Requirement:

On Saturday 28th May 2022, the luxury Princess 85 yacht 'Rendez Vous' was sunk in Torquay harbour as a result of a fire of unknown cause.

The yacht was on her pontoon berth to the southwest of Torquay Marine when the fire started. As the fire established and spread through the vessel superstructure, she broke free from her pontoon moorings and drifted west-northwest to lay alongside the inner face of the outer harbour breakwater, Princess Pier. The fire-damaged yacht sunk to the seabed resulting in the main marina access/egress route becoming blocked, causing significant disruption to marina operations.

TMS were contacted by the yacht insurers and requested to complete a full dive survey of the vessel to establish condition and salvageability.

Following the survey, TMS were further appointed to complete the full salvage, recovery, removal and disposal of the yacht.

### Solution:

A 600 tonne crawler crane was mobilised on to a 50m x 18m floating pontoon to lift the yacht from the water. A 30m x 11m pontoon was mobilised to load the yacht and allow her removal by sea from Torquay to a suitable quayside for recovery ashore.

A detailed salvage plan was prepared, including crane barge lift planning and floating stability calculations. Multiple diving operations were undertaken to excavate and install 4 long webbing basket slings under the yacht on the seabed.

To enable entry of the large crane barge into the Torquay Marina, pontoons were locally removed in advance before a very careful manoeuvre using three tugs positioned the 50m x 18m crane barge.

Lifting of the 106 tonne yacht was achieved by a combination of lifting using the 600t crane while pumps were used to evacuate water and debris from the hull as she breached the waterline

Silt, debris, fuel and other contaminants were managed during the salvage by passing all pumped water through a series of baffle and settlement tanks with hazardous substances removed by vac-ex lorry for safe disposal.

Following recovery, the yacht was loaded on to a transport barge and towed to Portland Harbour where she was fully scaffold enclosed to preserve and allow fire investigation

Following fire investigation, TMS used a 750 tonne mobile crane to lift the yacht ashore where a bunded demolition area was formed.

The yacht was then demolished and the waste separated into recyclable and non-recyclable for disposal

