

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - *RNLI NEWS RELEASE*

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Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

FIGHTER AIRCRAFT CRASHES INTO SEA OFF DUNSTABURGH CASTLE.

Call Out No:	15	/ 2004			
Day:	Thursday	Time:	12.09pm	Date:	22 nd July 2004
Weather:	Part Cloudy	Wind Speed:	Force 3	Direction:	South/East
Visibility:	Good	Sea State:	Slight		
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	Mersey All Weather	Crew: -	Michael Douglas, Stephen Priestley, John Hanvey, Eric Stanwix, Ivan Thompson, Neil Calvert, Edward Fordy, Martin Malone	Shore Crew:	Scott Priestley, Ian Malone, Sandie Straughan.
Returned to Station:	3.25pm	Service Duration:	3hrs 10 mins	Coastguard Incident No:	019802

At **12.09pm**, on **Thursday 22nd July, 2004**, Humber Coastguard received a report from RAF Boulmer that a military fighter jet had crashed into the sea off Dunstanburgh Castle, 9 miles north east of Newton point, and that the Search and Rescue Helicopter from RAF Boulmer was being scrambled, as was a second helicopter from RAF Kinloss. The crew of the aircraft were swiftly picked up by the helicopter and flown to hospital. It is common for pilots ejecting from fighter aircraft to suffer spinal injury due to the severe forces involved. Both crewmen had survived the incident. The Mersey Class Lifeboat launched, and began a debris recovery exercise from the scene, whilst reporting regularly to Humber Coastguard about debris and fuel pollution. The site had a quantity of debris from the aircraft floating, and there was a quantity of aviation fuel on the water. A 2 mile exclusion zone was established around the crash site enforced by the lifeboat, and liaison was established with the RAF Crash Recovery Teams. Once the crash site had been declared safe, the lifeboat returned to Seahouses where the recovered debris was handed over to RAF personnel at the harbour. The RAF are conducting an enquiry into the cause of this crash. On this occasion, no one was injured or property damaged.

Due to the low tide, the Lifeboat had to be taken all the way to the harbour mouth for the second time in two days, before it could be launched.

Ends.