

# **SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - *RNLI NEWS RELEASE***

Tel: 01665 720370. From Station Press Officer:



Lifeboats

## **LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION**

**Launch Report 22/2007**

### **TWO CHILDREN IN INFLATABLE BOATS, CAPSIZE AS THEY ARE BLOWN OUT TO SEA**

Call Out No:	22	/ 2007			
Day:	Friday	Time:	12.24am	Date:	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2007
Weather:	Fine	Wind Speed:	Force 5	Direction:	South Westerly
Visibility:	Clear	Sea State:	Choppy/Moderate		
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	Inshore	Crew: -	John Hanvey, Ian Bloomfield	Landrover / Shore Crew:	Terry Wainright, Sandie Straughan.
Returned to Station:	1.10pm	Service Duration:	40 minutes	Coastguard Incident No:	097723

At 12.24pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007, Humber Coastguard received a "999" call from the father of two small children, reporting that they were being blown out to sea in two small toy inflatable dinghies from the beach at the south side of Bamburgh Castle. It was windy, with a choppy sea, and there was serious concern for the safety of these children. Seahouses Inshore RNLI Lifeboat was paged for immediate launch. As the lifeboat was launching, a further call was received from the childrens' father, who was this time very distressed, reporting that the dinghies had capsized, and that the children were now in the water. A call was put out to any local vessels, and the local yacht "Sand Hopper" responded. As the yacht and the Inshore Lifeboat arrived on scene, the male child was spotted in the water, about to slip under the surface. He was grabbed by Seahouses yacht skipper John Thorburn, and then pulled aboard the Inshore Lifeboat, which took him straight back to the shore. There the female child was found, having swum back to the shore herself. Her father had also entered the water in a vain effort to rescue his children, and was also believed to have got into difficulty, but had also safely made it back to shore. There they were treated for the effects of cold and hyperthermia. An RAF Rescue Helicopter from RAF Boulmer also arrived on the scene, and landed on the beach. The two children, a girl aged 9 and boy aged 11, and their father, were then flown to Wansbeck Hospital, suffering from severe shock and mild hyperthermia. The family are believed to have been on holiday from the Leeds area.

***The incident serves as a timely warning about the dangers of using inflatable beds and dinghies in the open sea. This incident came very close to being a double fatality, save for the speedy response of the Rescue Services. Next time, those involved may not be so lucky. Ends.***

[www.seahouseslifeboat.org.uk](http://www.seahouseslifeboat.org.uk) RNLI : - Registered Charity 209603

*Vision : To be recognised universally as the most effective, innovative and dependable lifeboat service.*

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