

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - **RNLI NEWS RELEASE**



Tel: 01665 720370. From Station Press Officer:

Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Report 23/2005

FLARES FIRED FROM DISABLED MOTOR BOAT IN NEWTON BAY

Call Out No:	23	/ 2005			
Day:	Saturday	Time:	7.46am	Date:	20 th August 2005
Weather:	Fine	Wind Speed:	Force 6	Direction:	Northerly
Visibility:	Good	Sea State:	Moderate		
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	All Weather Lifeboat	Crew: -	Michael Douglas, John Hanvey, Eric Stanwix, Martin Malone, Eric Bramley, Neil Calvert, Gary Annisson	Landrover / Shore Crew:	Sandy Straughan, Zeddy Annison, Kerensa Airey
Returned to Station:	12.45pm	Service Duration:	5hrs	Coastguard Incident No:	025202

At 7.46am on **Saturday 20th August, 2005**, Humber Coastguard received reports of a distress flare being fired at Newton Bay, and at the same time received a mobile phone call from the crew of the 28ft motor boat "**Sapphire**" with 8 persons on board from the Ashington area, reporting that they were disabled by a rope around their propeller, and requested assistance. Seahouses **RNLI** All Weather Lifeboat "**Grace Darling**" was requested to launch, and was under way within 5 minutes of being alerted. The Lifeboat carefully went alongside, reaching the casualty at 8.17am in shallow water, and a tow was passed. The vessel was taken in tow back to its mooring in Newton Bay, where the Sapphire's crew returned safely to shore using their tender. Due to the state of the tide, the Lifeboat had to lie in the shelter of the Farne Islands until 12.45pm when there was enough depth of water at Seahouses to recover the boat onto its carriage.

The RNLI stress the value of a Marine VHF Radio, which can be invaluable in such circumstances. Mobile phones are better than nothing, or flares alone, but have limited benefit at sea in a rescue situation. One of the Lifeboat Crew was obliged to use his own mobile phone to make contact with the casualty on this occasion.

Photos attached

Sapph01 – Lifeboat approaching the casualty

Sapph02 and 03 – Casualty under tow

Ends.

www.seahouseslifeboat.co.uk RNLI : - Registered Charity 209603

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

Donation Hotline : 0800 543210

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