

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - **RNLI NEWS RELEASE**

Tel: 01665 720370. From Station Press Officer:



Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Report 3 & 4 /2005

CANOEISTS IN DIFFICULTY IN CHOPPY SEAS AT FARNE ISLANDS.

Day/Date:	Sat 23 Apr 2005	Time:	12.20pm
Weather:	Fine	Wind Speed/Direction:	Force 4 South East
Visibility:	Fine	Sea State:	Moderate
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	All Weather Lifeboat and Inshore Lifeboat	Crew: - Mersey LIFEBOAT Inshore LIFEBOAT	John Hanvey, Ian Clayton, Ian Fisher, Eric Stanwix, Neil Calvert Martin Malone, Zeddy Annison.
Shore Launching Crew:	Bryan Gregory, Sandie Straughan, Ian Malone.	Returned to Station:	2.50pm
Service Duration:	1hr 35 mins	Coastguard Inc. No:	09824

At **12.20pm**, on **Saturday 23rd April, 2005**, Humber Coastguard received several reports of a red distress flare having been sighted in the vicinity of the Outer Farne Islands, from local charter boats in that area. The origin of the flare was uncertain, but there were several parties of canoeists/kayaks in the area, on an outing from the Bamburgh/Seahouses areas to the Islands. Due to the multiple reports, Humber Coastguard requested both Seahouses Lifeboats to launch immediately to investigate. On reaching the area near the Pinnacles, several canoeists were located with one canoeists who had capsized, and who was in quite serious difficulty. The man, a 42yr old from the Blyth area, was exhausted, very cold and wet, and was complaining of acute muscle cramp in his left leg and was displaying the symptoms of hypothermia. It was confirmed that he had fired the red distress flare, on getting into difficulty. He was taken aboard the inshore lifeboat, and then transferred to the All Weather lifeboat, where he was given first aid treatment by the crew. Because of his condition, the Lifeboat requested an ambulance meet them at Seahouses harbour. On reaching the harbour, the casualty was examined by paramedics, and was taken to Wansbeck Hospital for treatment for mild hypothermia and shock. The sea conditions in the area of the Farne Islands were described as moderate, but were quite choppy due to the strong tidal flow through the islands and the south easterly wind. The Coastguard had some radio contact with some of the parties of canoeists, but from the information received, the Lifeboat left the harbour for a **second** time, due to a lack of a positive confirmation that all of the other canoeists/kayaks were safe. As the Lifeboat approached the Longstone, a group of canoeists were sighted huddled in the shelter of the island. One of the kayaks had capsized, and was partially flooded, and the person on board it, was in some difficulty, being supported by the others. He was taken aboard the lifeboat, as was his kayak. This man, a 57yr old from Stonehaven in Scotland, was very cold and wet, and also showed symptoms of hypothermia and shock, with loss of feeling in his feet and hands. He was also given first aid treatment by the crew, and another ambulance was requested. On arrival at Seahouses, the Lifeboat was met by Paramedics and local Coastguards. The casualty was examined, an also taken to Wansbeck hospital for treatment. Neither kayakist are thought to have life threatening conditions. *Ends.*

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