

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - **RNLI NEWS RELEASE**



Tel: 01665 720370. From Station Press Officer:

Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

HEAVY SEAS SMASH FISHING BOAT WINDSCREENS.

Call Out No:	33	/ 2004			
Day:	Thursday	Time:	9.24am	Date:	30 th December 2004
Weather:	Fair	Wind Speed:	Force 8 gusting 9	Direction:	West
Visibility:	Good	Sea State:	Rough to very rough		
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	All Weather Lifeboat	Crew: -	John Hanvey, Eric Stanwix, Ian Fisher, Ian Clayton, David Fordy, and Neil Calvert	Shore Crew:	John Hanvey, Sandie Straughan, Scott Priestley, Ian Malone
Returned to Station:	11.15am	Service Duration:	1hr 45min	Coastguard Incident No:	043126

Details: At 9.24 am, on Thursday 30th December, 2004, the Station Mechanic at Seahouses Lifeboat Station heard a radio message on the boathouse radio, from a local Seahouses 32ft fishing boat, "Portia of Poole" to a nearby boat, reporting that he had encountered a heavy sea which had burst in two of his wheelhouse windows, allowing waves breaking over his vessel to enter the forward wheelhouse. The vessel was 8 miles offshore with 2 on board at the Banks, a fishing ground east of the Farne Islands. The wind was gale Force 8, gusting Force 9, with rough to very rough seas. The Mechanic called the vessel to ask if he needed assistance, which he duly requested. The Seahouses Lifeboat Crew were paged for immediate launch and Humber Coastguard advised of the incident. The All Weather Lifeboat "Grace Darling" launched within 4 minutes, and made its way through the seas to the "Portia"'s position. Another local boat close by, the Glad Tidings, skippered by John Dawson of Seahouses, had also responded to the call and was standing by the casualty till arrival of the Lifeboat at 9.58am. The Lifeboat then escorted the casualty back to Seahouses, whilst trying to provide as much shelter to the "Portia" as possible. As the boat was making way through the seas which were breaking over her bows, the crew tried to prevent the sea entering the wheelhouse using waterproof jackets. The danger was that the sea could flood the vessel as well as damaging the electrical equipment. The vessel was escorted some way south at first, and then north in the lee of the land to try and find some shelter, to keep out of the worst of the seas. The vessel safely reached Seahouses harbour, where the damage was assessed for repair. The Lifeboat returned to station and was refuelled and ready for service by 11.55am.

Ends

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

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

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