

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - *RNLI NEWS RELEASE*

Tel: 01665 720370. From Station Press Officer:



Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

DIVER WITH BENDS SYMPTOMS, GIVEN ASSISTANCE BY SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT CREW, AIRLIFTED BY RAF HELICOPTER.

Call Out No:	08	/ 2004			
Day:	Sunday	Time:	12.38PM	Date:	13 th June 2004
Weather:	Fine	Wind Speed:	Force 4	Direction:	North/West
Visibility:	Clear	Sea State:	Slight		
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	Inshore Lifeboat	Crew:	Neil Calvert, Paul Calvert	Landrover Crew	John Hanvey, Ian Clayton, Ian Fisher, Sandie Straughan.
Returned to Station:	4.05pm	Service Duration:	1hr 20mins	Coastguard Incident No:	015045

At **12.38pm**, on Sunday 13th June, 2004, Humber Coastguard received a VHF radio call from the skipper of the Seahouses charter boat St Ebba IV, reporting that one of a party of his divers, diving on the wreck of the St Andrew, near the Pinnacles at the Farne Islands, had surfaced from 19 metres without any decompression stops, and was now feeling ill, with symptoms of the bends (decompression sickness). This condition can be life threatening, unless the casualty receives prompt and appropriate medical assistance. Humber Coastguard paged the Seahouses Lifeboat Crew, as oxygen is held at the station and aboard the lifeboats for emergency use. Meanwhile a fast charter rib (rigid inflatable boat), skippered by Duncan Allan of Seahouses, responded and brought the ill diver quickly ashore. The Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat launched and escorted the casualty to the slip, where he was met by the lifeboat crew. The diver, a 44 yr old male from the Leeds area, was from the Aireborough Sub Aqua Club, and had been diving with a 37 yr old colleague, who had ascended with the correct decompression stops, and was perfectly well. Oxygen was administered, and all information gathered which would be needed by the staff at the Hyperbaric Chamber (Decompression Unit). An ambulance was called and the Local Coastguards were also called out. The casualty was placed aboard the Seahouses Lifeboat Landrover, and driven to the emergency helicopter landing site on Seafield Road. An ambulance arrived, and it was agreed that the diver should be airlifted to the decompression chamber at Hull without further delay. An RAF helicopter from RAF Boulmer was quickly on scene, and airlifted the casualty to Hull for treatment.

The Inshore Lifeboat returned to station at 1.25pm. Meanwhile the divers' colleagues expressed their thanks to the Lifeboat Crew and Coastguards for their assistance, and swift response.

Ends.

Photographs attached.

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

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