

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - **RNLI NEWS RELEASE**

Tel: 01665 720370. *The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea.*

From Press Officer:



Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Report Seahouses 002/2008 and 003/2008

SEVERAL REPORTS OF RED FLARE NORTH OF FARNE ISLANDS

DATE	TIME LAUNCHED	WEATHER	WIND	SEA STATE	VISIBILITY	RETURNED	REFUELLED READY FOR SERVICE
Tues 1 st April 2008	10.08pm	Cloudy	Force 5/6 North/West	Slight / Moderate	Clear	11.15pm	11.45pm

At **10.08pm** on **Tuesday 1st April 2008**, Humber Coastguard informed the Seahouses Lifeboat Operations manager about an ongoing search by Coastguard teams, following two reports of possible red flares at sea, north of the Farne Islands. After the first report, radio messages had been broadcast to local shipping, without result, and shore based Coastguard Teams had searched, but seen nothing. Following the second report, there was concern in case the origin was a small vessel in that area. It was agreed to launch both the Seahouses All Weather and Inshore Lifeboats without delay, to effect a search from the Islestone on the shore to the north side of the Farnes Islands. Radar and searchlights were used, and further VHF radio broadcasts were made, but nothing was found. A helicopter from RAF Boulmer also joined the search, and the coastline was searched from the shore by local coastguard teams, who had been mobilised from a weekly local training session.

After finding nothing, both Lifeboats and the helicopter were recalled to station. Lifeboat Operations Manager Ian Clayton commented “ ***These incidents are always unsatisfactory, and although a very thorough search was made of the area by all of the rescue resources, you always have a nagging worry in case something was missed.*** “ No local vessels were overdue or unaccounted for.

The incident was a false alarm with good intent, and whatever was seen, remains a mystery.

Ends.