

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 005/006/007/2008

LARGE SCALE SEARCH INVOLVING 4 LIFEBOATS AND HELICOPTER FOR MISSING DIVER OFF SEAHOUSES – AND A CALL TO HOLY ISLAND CAUSEWAY !

DATE	TIME LAUNCHED	WEATHER	WIND	SEA STATE	VISIBILITY	RETURNED	REFUELLED READY FOR SERVICE
Sun 18 th May 2008	11.31am	Fine	Force 3/4 Northerly	Moderate	Clear	5.30pm	6.00pm

At 11.31pm on Sunday 18th May 2008, Humber Coastguard reported to the Lifeboat Operations Manager, that they had received a call via mobile phone from the Seahouses charter boat "**Sovereign 3**", reporting a diver missing at the wreck of the Somali, between Seahouses and Beadnell. Both Lifeboats were requested to launch immediately, and it was established that the diver had been missing for about an hour prior to the report. The Seahouses All Weather Lifeboat "**Grace Darling**" and Inshore Lifeboat "**Peter Downes**", began a systematic search of the dive site area, coordinated by Humber Coastguard. Craster Inshore Lifeboat was then also requested to assist the Seahouses Lifeboats, and the non RNLI Boulmer Rescue Boat also joined the search. A helicopter from RAF Boulmer, local vessels and shore based Coastguards also assisted. The coastguards were searching the coastline while the vessels carried out an expanding search around the dive area. While the search was ongoing, **Humber Coastguard received another emergency call at 2.34pm**, concerning a car with two persons, one of whom was handicapped, trapped on Holy Island Causeway, while crossing contrary to the safe periods. Seahouses ILB was diverted to the Causeway, but stood down before reaching it. That incident had been resolved by local coastguards and the helicopter. The **ILB** then returned to the search off Seahouses. After a further hour, the search was scaled down. However, the Seahouses Lifeboats continued the search, awaiting a slack period as the tide turned, which may have caused the missing diver to surface. By this time, all real hope of this diver being found alive, had gone. On the arrival of Police boats and Divers from the Tyne, the Lifeboats stood down and returned to station. To date, the diver has not been found and police divers are expected to return tomorrow. The diver was one of a party from the Nottingham area, a male aged 53yrs. The Lifeboat Operations Manager commented, "*This was a truly harrowing incident for all involved. Such incidents are mercifully rare on this coast. Our thoughts are with the friends and relatives of the diver at this tragic time. Our crews all worked well together, and everything humanly possible was done to try and locate the missing man, sadly without success.*" ENDS