

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - *RNLI NEWS RELEASE*

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

From Local Station Press Officer:



Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Report 33 / 2010

VESSEL AGAIN BLOCKING VHF CHANNEL 16 – MARINE DISTRESS / CALLING CHANNEL

DATE/TIME LAUNCHED	RETURNED TO STATION	LIFEBOAT(S) LAUNCHED	WEATHER	WIND	SEA STATE	VISIBILITY
Sun 18 th July 2010 11.05hr	12:55hr	All Weather Lifeboat	Fine	SW Force 3	Calm	Good

At 11:05hr on **Sunday 18th July, 2010**, **Humber Coastguard** contacted the Seahouses Lifeboat Operations Manager, and requested the launch of **Seahouses All Weather Lifeboat**, to again attempt to locate a vessel, believed to be possibly somewhere off Seahouses, which had a radio jammed, and permanently transmitting a carrier signal. The signal was blocking the distress calling channel, and could seriously hinder another vessel calling for assistance. The Lifeboat is equipped with VHF Radio Direction Finding Equipment, which can assist in locating a VHF Marine radio transmission. The Coastguard were very concerned as there were numerous diving boats and pleasure craft in the area, who would be unable to call for assistance, should they have a problem. It was agreed to launch the All Weather Lifeboat, and this time, and a search was conducted around the Farne Islands, but the transmission eventually ceased, so its source could no longer be identified. The Lifeboat was then stood down and returned to station.

This is the second time in two days, that this problem has occurred and the back ground noise suggests that it is the same craft as the call-out yesterday, possibly a yacht. Seahouses and Beadnell slipways have been asked to request boats launching there, take particular care to prevent this problem. Seahouses Lifeboat Operations Manager commented “ We would ask all boat users to take particular care when using their VHF radio, so that they do not accidentally jam the transmit button on their microphone. Jamming the distress channel like this has caused two lifeboat launches in 36 hours, and put other boat users at risk, and can only be described as grossly irresponsible”. Ends.

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

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

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