



REPORT No: 22/99

Wind Surfers in difficulty off Newton Haven, south of Beadnell.

At 4.47pm on Sunday 15th August, 1999, the Seahouses All Weather and Inshore Lifeboats were on an exercise visit to Beadnell Yacht Club for their annual RNLI Flag Day, when Tyne Tees Coastguard requested the lifeboats to proceed on immediate service to Newton Bay, south of Beadnell. Wind surfers were reported in serious difficulties. A Coastguard shore unit was also dispatched, and a wind surfers board was sighted floating in the water. At that time, it was believed that the surfers were still in the water and a search began. Four children were then located by the Coastguard crew, having safely reached the shore after being picked up by a passing yacht. The children, 2 boys and 2 girls were aged between 7 and 12yrs. They were safe and well. They were on holiday in the area. Their surf board was recovered by the lifeboat and taken to Seahouses, where it was later returned to the family.

At the time of the incident, there was a gusty westerly (offshore) wind, with a slightly choppy sea. It is believed all four children had been on the surf board, which is designed for one person, and the incident shows how easily an accident of this nature can occur. On this occasion, the incident had a satisfactory conclusion.

Ends.

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