



NORTH SUNDERLAND (SEAHOUSES) LIFEBOAT STATION.

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Second service of the year to Holy Island Causeway!

At 4.47pm on Saturday 6 March, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard requested immediate launch of the Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat, to go to the aid of two persons reported trapped in a vehicle by the rising tide on the Holy Island Causeway. An RAF Seaking Search and Rescue Helicopter from RAF Boulmer was also scrambled.

Again, due to the choppy seas and cold weather conditions, the inshore lifeboat was taken by road to the causeway with a police escort. A man and wife, both aged 40yrs, with their 8yr old son, were winched from their vehicle by the helicopter and landed safely on the landward side of the causeway, where they were met by an ambulance crew, coastguards and police. The Inshore Lifeboat did not require to be launched. The family, from Edinburgh, were cold and shocked by their experience but declined any medical assistance. Arrangements are being made to recover their vehicle, a Ford Transit, when the tide recedes after 9pm tonight. It is likely to be severely damaged by the effect of sea water on the engine. The family stated that they had not checked the safe crossing times displayed, as they didn't think the water would have got deep enough to cause them any danger. They now know otherwise !! Safe crossing times for today were between 8.20am and 3.25pm.

Northumberland County Council are reviewing warning signage, to try and prevent these incidents, and Northumbria Police have warned that motorists who become stranded in these circumstances, may find that their motor insurance may not cover the subsequent damage to their vehicles. Yet again, we can only stress the need for people visiting Holy Island to check the safe crossing times, clearly displayed at each end of the Causeway, or even seek advice from the Islanders !

North Sunderland
(Seahouses) Lifeboat Crew.

