



RNLI PRESS RELEASE

REPORT No: 5/99

**Fourth Service of the year to Holy Island
Causeway!!**

At 4.05pm on Sunday 21 March, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard yet again requested immediate launch of the Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat, to go to the aid of two persons reported trapped in the Refuge Boxon Holy Island Causeway, after their Rover Metro car was overcome by the rising tide. Tyne Tees Coastguard were concerned for the safety of the casualties, a man and woman in their thirties, who were not local. They were reported to have waded through a chest high depth of water to reach the refuge box, and were very cold and wet. There was a risk of hypothermia.

The inshore lifeboat proceeded by sea to the causeway. The casualties were then landed safely on the landward side of the causeway, where they were met by Coastguards from Seahouses and the police. They were then taken by Ambulance to Berwick Infirmary as a precautionary measure. Their car floated off the causeway before sinking. They also had failed to heed the warning signs and safe crossing times clearly displayed at the ends of the Causeway. Safe crossing times for today were between 8.59am and 02.56pm.

There is little more than can be said that has not been said in previous press releases this year. The Lifeboat Crew at Seahouses are becoming increasingly frustrated by the frequency of these calls, all resulting from dangerously irresponsible actions by a small minority of visitors to the island. This was the second call to the causeway this week, and as the summer season approaches with increased demands on the resources of the RNLI, we are very concerned by this trend, as well as for the potential for a loss of life.

Ends.

Seahouses Lifeboat Crew.

