



Seahouses Lifeboat Station

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From Station Press Officer

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Report No 16/2003

DIVER WITH "BENDS" SYMPTOMS, APPROX 6 MILES OFF SEAHOUSES.

Date: Saturday 28/06/03 **Callout time:** 12.26pm **Launch time:** 12.35pm

Wind speed: 2 **Wind direction:** SW **Sea state:** Slight 0.5m swells

Weather: Cloudy **Visibility:** Good **Casualty:** Diver

Recovery Time: 6.35pm **Coastguard Incident No:** DIN.392

Location: 6 miles ESE of Seahouses. **Lifeboat:** All Weather Lifeboat.

Crew: *Michael Douglas, John Hanvey, Eric Stanwix, Edward Fordy, Mick Hoyle, Martin Malone, Paul Tennet.*

Launchers: *Scott Priestley, Zeddy Annison.*

Details: At 12.26pm on Saturday, 28th June 2003, Humber Coastguard received a request for assistance from the dive boat "Odessey", which had launched from Beadnell. One of their divers had surfaced without safety decompression stops, from 30 metres, and was now suffering symptoms of the "Bends" (decompression sickness). The All Weather Lifeboat "Grace Darling" was requested to launch, and take oxygen to the casualty, while a helicopter was dispatched. As the Lifeboat reached the casualty, a Rescue Helicopter from RAF Boulmer arrived and uplifted the diver, while the lifeboat stood by. The casualty was then flown to the decompression chamber at Hull for treatment.

The lifeboat returned to station at 1.40pm. All lifeboat crew are trained in marine first aid, and to administer oxygen (which is very beneficial to a "bends" casualty) and Entonox, the pain killing gas. The latter must NEVER be given to a casualty suffering from the Bends (can mask crucial symptoms).

Ends.