



# Seahouses Lifeboat Station.

Seahouses, Northumberland

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From Station Press Officer

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## REPORT No: 6/2000

### Broken down speedboat with 6 on board, rescued by Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat.

DATE : Sunday 23rd April,2000    TIME : 1.00pm

Service Request from Tyne Tees Coastguard.

LIFEBOATS LAUNCHED : Relief Inshore Lifeboat

In Command : Helmsman Stephen Priestley

Service description :

A 5 metre fibre glass speedboat, with 4 adults and two children on board, suffered engine failure near the Swedman Buoy, approximately 1½ miles north east of Seahouses. One of the adults used her mobile phone to telephone the Coastguards for help, as they had no radio or flares. Seahouses Lifeboat crew were paged immediately, and the Inshore Lifeboat launched. Unfortunately, the lady appeared to have then turned her phone off, so the Coastguards were unable to call her back to tell her that help was on the way!. The disabled speedboat, which had been launched from Beadnell, was then towed back to Seahouses, where the occupants were landed safely. The adults, who included three males and a female, with a 5yr old girl and 3yr old boy, were all from the same family from Westerhope, Newcastle.

**WHILST MOBILE PHONES ARE BETTER THAN NOTHING, IF THE WORST DOES HAPPEN, THEY ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A MARINE VHF RADIO AND DISTRESS FLARES. THE MARINE RESCUE SERVICES CAN USE DIRECTION FINDING EQUIPMENT TO LOCATE THE ORIGIN OF A VHF RADIO SIGNAL, SO THAT HELP CAN QUICKLY REACH THE CASUALTY, BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH A MOBILE PHONE. IN AN EMERGENCY IN FOGGY CONDITIONS, RELYING ON A MOBILE PHONE, COULD PROVE VERY UNWISE.**

Ends.

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