



## Seahouses Lifeboat Station

Tel : 01665 720370

From Station Press Officer:

### **LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION**

INCIDENT REPORT 6/2002.

### **BROKEN DOWN MOTORBOAT OFF BEADNELL.**

At 1.44pm on Saturday 27 April, 2002, Humber Coastguard received a call for assistance by mobile phone, from the occupant of a motor boat broken down off Beadnell point. The 20' red and white boat, "Spitfire", had been launched from Beadnell, but had suffered engine failure on its first outing with a reconditioned engine. The Coastguards immediately requested the Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat to launch and proceed to the vessel's assistance. There were two persons on the "Spitfire", a 44yr old male and his 12yr old son, from the Gosforth area of Newcastle. They had been staying at the Beadnell Caravan park. The Lifeboat was underway within four minutes of being alerted, and alongside the casualty twelve minutes later. It was taken in tow by the lifeboat back to Beadnell. The boat and its occupants were landed safely after their unfortunate experience, where they were met by local coastguards.

The occupants were strongly advised on the value of a VHF marine radio, for such circumstances. Mobile phones may be better than nothing, but they can be unreliable offshore, and it is impossible for the rescue services to use direction finding equipment to locate a casualty using a mobile phone at sea who may be in difficulty or lost.

*Weather conditions at the time were wind Force 2-3 west south westerly, clear visibility, with slight sea conditions.*

**Coastguard Log No H.248 refers.**