

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - **RNLI NEWS RELEASE**



Tel: 01665 720370. From Station Press Officer:

Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

DIVER INCIDENT OFF PINNACLES, FARNE ISLANDS.

Call Out No:	22 / 2004				
Day:	Saturday	Time:	1.55pm	Date:	28 th August 2004
Weather:	Fine	Wind Speed:	Force 2	Direction:	West
Visibility:	Good	Sea State:	Light 1m swells		
Lifeboat(s) Launched :	Inshore Lifeboat	Crew: -	Eric Stanwix, Paul Ternent, Ivan Thompson	Shore Crew:	Sandie Straughan, John Hanvey, Ian Clayton
Returned to Station:	2.45pm	Service Duration:	50 min	Coastguard Incident No:	025952

Details: At 1.55pm, on **Saturday 28th August, 2004**, Humber Coastguard received a report from a dive boat off the Pinnacles at the Farne Islands, that an incident had occurred where a diver who had been diving on the wreck of the St Andrew, had surfaced rapidly from 21 metres after experiencing problems with his air bottles. There was an obvious risk of decompression sickness, and assistance was requested, as the dive boat concerned had no oxygen. Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat was launched immediately, and met the dive boat "Leeds Athletic" which had taken the diver aboard and rushed him to Seahouses Harbour. The Diver was transferred to the Seahouses Lifeboat Landrover, where he was treated with oxygen and fluids. An ambulance was called, and after consultation with a specialist Navy Diving doctor, it was directed that the diver be flown directly to the decompression chamber at Hull. The RAF Boulmer Helicopter was already on task to an incident in the Lake District, and a helicopter from RAF Leconfield in Lincolnshire was scrambled, reaching Seahouses within 50 minutes.

The diver, a 54yr old male from the Castleford area near Leeds, was then transferred to the helicopter on its arrival and flown to Hull for treatment. Although he was not displaying any specific symptoms of the



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“Bends”, this condition can set in some time after a diver has come ashore, and can be life threatening. Ends.