

SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION - **RNLI NEWS RELEASE**

Tel: 01665 720370. *The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea.*

From Local Station Press Officer:



Lifeboats

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Reports 30, 31 & 32 / 2010

EMERGENCY RADIO CHANNEL BLOCKED THEN HORSES TRAPPED NEAR HOLY ISLAND

DATE/TIME LAUNCHED	RETURNED TO STATION	LIFEBOAT(S) LAUNCHED	WEATHER	WIND	SEA STATE	VISIBILITY
Sat 17 th July 2010 15.06hr, 15.45hr and 1715hr	21.05hr	All Weather Lifeboat, Inshore Lifeboat then All Weather	Fine	SW Force 3	Calm	Very good

At 15:00hr on **Saturday 12th July, 2010**, Lifeboat Crew Members advised their Operations Manager that Ch 16, the Marine Emergency Calling Radio VHF Channel, was blocked by a jammed radio transmitting, preventing anyone from calling or issuing distress calls. The Operations Manager called **Humber Coastguard** to discuss the problem, which was affecting Forth and Humber Coastguard Centres, and he agreed to launch the All Weather Lifeboat, equipped with direction finding equipment, to locate the offending vessel, and resolve the problem. At the top of the slip, the boat was halted after the radio signal cleared. After five minutes, the Lifeboat was stood down and returned to station. However, calls were then received about two horses trapped on mudflats near Fenwick on the mainland side near Holy Island. The Inshore Lifeboat was requested to launch and act as a safety boat for local coastguards attempting to rescue the horses, as the tide was starting to flood (rise). The ILB was launched and proceeded by sea. Meanwhile the Fire Service were called to assist and 4 fire appliances attended the scene, together with a vet. A horse rider who had been on one of the horses, had suffered pelvic injuries, and an ambulance was called, although he was not thought to be seriously injured. By 17.15hr, one horse had been released, but the other was tightly trapped in the mud. Further resources were urgently requested. Seahouses All Weather Lifeboat with additional crew was the paged and launched. Two Inshore Lifeboat Crew were already in the water with the distressed horse. RAF Boulmer were contacted for further assistance, and a special harness, not used previously, was attached to the helicopter. On arrival, and not without difficulty], the harness was attached to the horse, as the water lapped around it, and the Lifeboat Crew and Coastguards struggled to keep its

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head above the fast rising water. The tide was rising very rapidly by this time. A Vet had tried to reach the horse, but he too had to be rescued after becoming trapped on the mudflats. At approximately 18.15hr, the helicopter with great skill, was able to lift the terrified animal from the flooding mudflat, and landed it in a nearby field. The Vet was able to give it a tranquilliser, to help it recover from its terrifying ordeal. It then took some water and food, apparently not too badly affected by its experience. An elated team of lifeboat crew, coastguards and fire personnel then stood down, and returned to station. Seahouses Lifeboat Operations Manager Ian Clayton added, " I would like to pay tribute to the Holy Island Coastguards, and those Lifeboat Crew Personnel from Seahouses who were in the water, supporting this poor animal. The RAF Helicopter did an absolutely superb and professional job, a first for them I believe, made even better by a very successful conclusion, and without their assistance, this poor animal would have certainly perished in the fast rising tide. Everyone at Seahouses were thrilled by the successful result ! "

Ends.