



RNLI PRESS RELEASE

REPORT No: 25/99

**Small dinghy reported drifting out to sea off
Bamburgh.**

On Wednesday 1st September, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard received a report from a member of the public, that a dinghy with three persons on board was drifting out to sea off the Islestone rocks, between Bamburgh and Seahouses. At 1.14pm the Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat was requested to launch and investigate, and a Search and Rescue Helicopter from RAF Boulmer was scrambled. After an initial search by the helicopter, the inshore lifeboat under command of Helmsman Stephen Priestley, and local coastguards, it was established that the dinghy and occupants, aged 16, 10 and 6yrs, had managed to get ashore after scrambling over rocks. No medical assistance was required.

Whilst this incident had a happy ending, it does highlight the need for great care when allowing children to use small inflatables on the open sea. A gusty wind and strong currents can very soon carry such small craft into deep water away from the shore, which could easily result in loss of life. On this occasion, the father of the children, all from Pontefract, who were on holiday in the area, apologised for the incident and thanked the rescue services for their prompt response.

Our advice is never to use small inflatables in the open sea !.

Ends.