



Seahouses Lifeboat Station

Tel : 01665 720370

From Station Press Officer

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Report No 21/2003

WOMAN IN DIFFICULTIES IN THE SEA OFF BAMBURGH CASTLE.

Date: Saturday 26/07/03 **Callout time:** 5.53pm **Launch time:** 5.56pm
Wind speed: 2/3 **Wind direction:** W **Sea state:** Light to Moderate, 0.5m swells
Weather: Heavy cloud/rain **Visibility:** Moderate **Casualty:** Female swimmer ??
Recovery Time: 6.20pm **Coastguard Incident No:** DIN.518
Location: Off Bamburgh Castle. **Lifeboat:** Relief Inshore Lifeboat.
Crew: *David Fordy, Stuart Patterson, Zeddy Annison.*
Launchers: *Ian Clayton, Sandie Straughan, John Hanvey.*

Details: At 5.53pm on Saturday, 26th July 2003, Humber Coastguard requested the immediate launch of the Seahouse Inshore Lifeboat, after receiving a "999" call reporting a woman in difficulties in the water off Bamburgh Castle. At the time, it was cloudy with moderate to heavy rain. The Lifeboat was launched and was quickly on the scene, where a 39yr old woman from the Westerhope area of Newcastle, was found in the water, fully clothed and in some distress. She was in excess of 200 metres from the shore. At first the woman resisted efforts of the Lifeboat Crew to pull her from the water. The crew eventually managed to get her into the Lifeboat, where she began to drift in and out of consciousness. It was suspected that she may have been suffering the effects of alcohol or drugs, she was very cold and in need of medical attention. The Lifeboat Crew requested an ambulance to meet them at Seahouses Harbour. On reaching the harbour, the lady was placed in the station landrover, and wrapped in blankets to warm her, and was administered oxygen by the Lifeboat Crew. She was taken to the shelter of the lifeboat station, till the arrival of an ambulance. She was then conveyed to Alnwick Infirmary for assessment. Meanwhile, her relatives had assembled at the Lifeboat Station, where they were also met by Local Police and Coastguards. The reasons for this woman being in the water fully clothed, and at such a distance from the shore, are not currently known. However, this woman was clearly in a very distressed and a highly charged emotional condition, following her rescue. Without the swift response of the Inshore Lifeboat, it is highly likely that this lady would have quickly drowned. Ends.

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