

Seahouses Lifeboat Station.

Seahouses Harbour, Northumberland, Tel: 01665 720370

LAUNCH REPORT No: 22/2000

YACHT AGROUND IN THICK FOG AT HOLY ISLAND - 3 SAVED.



DATE : Saturday, 30th September, 2000.

TIME : 1.29am.

LIFEBOATS LAUNCHED : All Weather Lifeboat "Lifetime Care" and Inshore Lifeboat "Martin, John and Ann".

Tyne Tees Coastguard received a radio distress call from the Yacht "Rough Diamond" with three persons on board, which reported running onto rocks at the channel entrance to Holy Island harbour. They requested immediate assistance. Both Seahouses Lifeboats were alerted at 1.29am, and launched minutes later. After a difficult rescue, all three persons and their yacht were brought safely to Seahouses Harbour.

The yacht was located with difficulty in the darkness and thick fog on the south side of the channel near the harbour entrance at Holy Island. The All Weather Lifeboat, under the command of Coxswain David Shiel, was obliged to abandon the first attempt to reach the yacht, because of the shallow rocky water, and strong tidal stream. Using the Lifeboat's electronic navigational equipment, the Coxswain was able to pin point the yacht's exact position and a second attempt to reach the yacht was made. On this occasion the Inshore Lifeboat was able to secure a tow line after transferring two of the yacht's crew to the All Weather Lifeboat. The yacht was then pulled clear of the rocks, and towed back to Seahouses. The Yacht skipper, Keith Patrick Spencer, 29yrs, from Carlisle, said "After you couldn't get to us the first time, I thought that was it, and at the very least we were going to loose the yacht. The fog just came in so quick, it caught us out." Coxswain David Shiel added "They were very lucky the sea was fairly calm, it was a tricky and difficult job to get them off. They were three very relieved and grateful people when we finally got them clear !" The other crew members of the yacht were Kathryn Gillian Buckley, 24yr from Rochdale, and Ian Charles Arnold, 29yr from Prestwick, Manchester. They were safely landed at Seahouses after their ordeal at approximately 6am, where they were met by local Coastguards and given hot drinks at the lifeboat station. The yacht had been on passage from Amble where it was based, to Holy Island at the time of the incident.

Ends.