

2 October 2015

Falmouth 013 2015

Falmouth all weather lifeboat crew called to a medivac off the Dodman.

At 10:30 this morning the lifeboat pagers were activated to go to the assistance of a yacht with an injured crewmember.

The 38ft Laurent Giles yacht sailing from Eastbourne to Falmouth started her difficulties almost as soon as she left Eastbourne when the engine gave out and the crew of two could not fix it. However, as the weather was not too bad and she was a well found yacht they decide to sail her to Falmouth.

Some time later, the weather had worsened and both crew sustained a fall down below, one of them fairing a lot worse than the other, with damage and bruising to the ribs and chest.

The skipper of the yacht discussed his predicament with the coastguard who, after assessing the weather and the fact that the yacht had no engine, considered it prudent to alert the all weather lifeboat.

The lifeboat left her pontoon at 10:37am and headed east to the Dodman. They located the yacht at 11:12 one mile off the Dodman, and after a little while were able to put Clare Angove and Neil Capper, two members of the lifeboat crew, on board the yacht, to assess the condition of the casualties. On the strength of their report to the Coxswain, another crewman, Tom Bird, was put onboard to help prepare a tow. It was considered too risky to attempt to transfer the casualty to the lifeboat in the prevailing conditions.

At 12:02pm the tow back to Falmouth commenced, arriving in Falmouth at 1:30pm. The paramedics, who were waiting at Pendennis Marina for the casualty to arrive, got to work immediately making him comfortable and administering pain relief in preparation for his trip to hospital for check up.

With the casualty now on his way to Treliske Hospital the lifeboat crew took the yacht and secured her on a mooring in the river where she would be safe until the skipper could get back to her.

The lifeboat was finally released at two minutes past two and was made ready for service again, having been washed down and refuelled, at 2:05pm.

On completion of the mission the Coxswain said: 'This was an excellent example of community lifesaving with cooperation between Falmouth coastguard, Falmouth lifeboat, and the paramedics working efficiently on the casualty to make him as comfortable as possible. Appreciation is also due to Pendennis Marina for allowing the lifeboat and the yacht to berth at the marina whilst the paramedics carried out their work'.

Notes to editors

- The crew for this task was: Carl Beardmore (Coxswain); Jonathan Hackwell; Dave Nicoll; Di Bush; Clare Angove; Andy Jenkin; Tom Bird and Neil Capper.

RNLI media contacts

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Key facts about the RNLI

The RNLI charity saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 230 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and has more than 100 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 137,000 lives. The RNLI is a charity registered in England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, Irish Charity number 2678.