

23 September 2015

Falmouth 011 2015

Two launches in three days for Falmouth RNLI lifeboats.

On Sunday 19th September, at 6:16 pm, the inshore lifeboat volunteer crew were tasked to respond to shouts of help heard from onshore at Penance Point. They arrived on scene some ten minutes later where they learned from a kayaker that a female had jumped into the water from the cliffs and injured herself, and that she was being ferried to the beach at Gyllyngvase by another kayaker.

The lifeboat proceeded to the beach and landed a crew member with his first aid equipment to assist and assess the casualty. It was clear that she was in some pain in her lower back so another crewman was landed to help. Also in attendance were the Coastguard Cliff Rescue Team, and between them they made the casualty stable and comfortable until the ambulance arrived some time later, and she was taken off to the Royal Cornwall Hospital.

The inshore lifeboat was released to head back to base at 8:00 pm and after washing down and refuelling was declared ready for service at 8:45 pm.

Two days later the crew were called at 3:30 pm to go to the aid of an exhausted elderly kayaker who had fallen out of his kayak and was unable to get back in. The lifeboat arrived on scene near the Manacles at 3:56 pm where they commenced a search. They were guided to the casualty by the Porthoustock Cliff Rescue Team who were on hand and could see him.

In short time the elderly gentleman was brought into the lifeboat where it was immediately obvious that he was close to exhaustion and suffering from mild hypothermia after his attempts to get back onto his kayak.

A helicopter from RNAS Culdrose had been called and straight away commenced winching the casualty into the helicopter. He was then taken off the Royal Cornwall Hospital for a thorough check up.

The lifeboat was released back to the station at 4:20 pm, where, on arrival it was washed down and refuelled and declared ready for service again at 5:10 pm.

Notes to editors

- The crew members involved in the first rescue were: Jonathan Hackwell (helmsman); Josh Beardmore and Tom Telford.
- For the second call out the crew were: Luke Wills (helmsman); Neil Capper and Clare Angove.