

Humberside Coastguard Search and Rescue Helicopters

Captain Jonathan Stanley, Deputy Chief Pilot



Sat 15 August – photo by Kinder MRT.



Scafell Pike summit – photo by Andrew Firth.

August has been another month with a wide variety of tasking types. Some of the task locations have been outside our usual 'patch', such as Lancaster, Penrith and Liverpool, normally because the bases that cover those areas were already engaged on other rescues and so were unavailable.

The variety of hospital destinations is also worth highlighting: Hull, Grimsby, Middlesborough, Sheffield, Salford, Norwich and Boston during this month. This is obviously primarily driven by proximity to the casualty's location (ie the nearest hospital), but the nature of the casualty's condition will also play a part in this decision. For example, if the casualty has suffered serious traumatic injuries then we will normally fly to a Major Trauma Centre hospital such as Sheffield, Hull, Preston or Middlesborough.

On overland high-ground incidents we are very often assisted by mountain rescue teams (MRTs). These are made up of volunteers who, much like most lifeboat crews, are extremely competent and freely give up their time to help other people. They are often on scene with the casualty before we are, especially if the incident is some distance from our base, and they provide fantastic assistance to our winch paramedics. They also make the incident scene easy to identify, as we just look for the cluster of people all wearing red Gore-Tex jackets!

Date	Times	Tasking
2 Aug	15:44 – 19:54	Diverted from training to assist mountain rescue team with a fallen octogenarian walker with a serious head injury approximately 7 miles east of Lancaster. Aircraft landed, casualty stretchered on board and taken to Preston hospital.
3 Aug	18:07 – 20:40	60 year old male crewman with breathing difficulties aboard gas carrying vessel in vicinity of Hartlepool. Casualty winched and taken to Middlesborough James Cook hospital.
6 Aug	11:08 – 13:06	50 year old farmer with head injuries after a fall in the Peak District. Aircraft landed nearby; casualty plus HEMS doctor and paramedic taken to Sheffield for onward ambulance transfer to hospital.
6 Aug	16:15 – 18:08	8 year old boy with head injuries at Bridlington. Aircraft landed at the scene; casualty stretchered on board and taken to Middlesborough James Cook hospital.
7 Aug	16:24 – 18:48	66 year old female who had sustained serious injuries after a quad bike crash near Rochdale. Aircraft landed at the scene, casualty stretchered aboard by mountain rescue team and taken to Salford hospital.

9 Aug	17:26 – 19:23	Scrambled to reports of person in the water at Waxham, Norfolk. En route, the crew was informed that the casualty had been recovered from the sea but that CPR was in progress. After arrival, resuscitation attempts continued until air ambulance medical personnel pronounced casualty deceased. Aircraft returned to base.
10 Aug	17:07 – 17:29	81 year old female in cardiac arrest at Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Crew stood down en route.
12 Aug	15:24 – 17:01	55 year old hill walker suffering from heat exhaustion near Ladybower reservoir, Peak District. Aircraft landed, casualty stretchered aboard by mountain rescue team and taken to Sheffield for ambulance transfer.
15 Aug	18:00 – 20:25	Fallen walker in the Peak District. Aircraft landed near the scene and winchman deployed. Due to awkward terrain, casualty stretchered to suitable winching area by mountain rescue team, winched and taken to Sheffield for ambulance transfer.
16 Aug	15:22 – 17:20	Tasked to small fishing vessel off Tynemouth that had raised a large boulder in its nets and subsequently assumed a significant list. Radio contact had been established with the coastguard but then lost, followed by the activation of the vessel's emergency beacon. En route, radio contact was re-established with the fishing vessel crew who reported that the boat had sunk and that they were in a liferaft. The Tynemouth lifeboat arrived on scene shortly before the helicopter and took the crewmen aboard safe and well. The helicopter crew then passed the debris field and oil slick position to the coastguard before being stood down and returning to base.
18 Aug	19:23 – 21:46	33 year old fallen female walker who had sustained multiple injuries 17 miles east of Penrith. Aircraft landed at the scene, casualty stretchered aboard by mountain rescue team and taken to Middlesborough James Cook hospital.
19 Aug	10:06 – 12:34	46 year old male crewman with chest pains aboard merchant vessel east of Lowestoft. Aircraft landed on vessel's helideck, casualty taken aboard and taken to Norwich airport for ambulance transfer.
19 – 20 Aug	22:44 – 01:02	51 year old male with severe stomach pains aboard offshore support vessel 60 miles east of Kirmington. Casualty winched to aircraft and taken to Hull Royal Infirmary.
20 Aug	18:35 – 19:36	Two persons stuck on cliffs near Scarborough. Both casualties winched safely to the aircraft and left, safe and well, with coastguard personnel on scene.
24 Aug	14:39 – 16:23	71 year old female at Ravenscar with ankle injury. Aircraft landed nearby, casualty carried to aircraft and handed over to waiting ambulance crew at the clifftop for onward transfer to hospital.
26 Aug	04:23 – 04:41	Crew tasked to report of persons in the River Mersey off the Royal Liver Building, Liverpool. Stood down soon after departure so returned to base.
26 Aug	12:45 – 16:02	Search for vessel reported to be taking on water, 13 miles south east of Flamborough Head. Extensive search carried out with no vessel or wreckage found, so stood down.
30 Aug	11:22 – 13:04	25 year old female with suspected shoulder and leg injuries after falling from a horse on the Lincolnshire coast. Aircraft landed on the beach, casualty stretchered aboard and taken to Boston Pilgrim hospital.
31 Aug	09:49 – 10:10	Search of the River Humber following the receipt of a distress beacon alert. Nothing found; diverted to next task.
31 Aug	10:10 – 12:11	34 year old male with severe abdominal pains aboard an offshore support vessel 100 miles east of Kirmington. Casualty winched from vessel and taken to Grimsby for ambulance transfer to hospital.