



26 September 2007

## COUPLE RECOVER AFTER RESCUE ORDEAL

Published on 02/08/2007

By Julie Armstrong

A LONGTOWN couple are safely back home after being rescued from a burning boat off the Cumbrian coast on Tuesday.

Tom Bownerss, 65, and wife Mary, 64, were saved by a passing boat after a terrifying ordeal in which their vessel burst into flames.

Mary said: "We just want to thank the crew of the Titan Explorer and all the staff of the hospital, ambulance and lifeboats. It was a traumatic experience. It takes a bit to come to terms with, but we're fine."

They received treatment for smoke inhalation, shock and hypothermia and were taken to the West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven.

Lifeboat crews from Workington and Silloth battled the fires on the cabin cruiser, off Flimby.

Despite their efforts to save the 29ft-long boat, it sank while being towed back to shore.

Mr and Mrs Bowness did not suffer serious injuries but were left very shaken and devastated at the loss of their boat, named Spedeworth.

They were travelling from Whitehaven to Maryport when the engine caught fire following an explosion at about 2.30pm.

They issued a mayday two miles off the coast and the coastguard received more than 100 calls from passers by.

They were rescued by the crew of the Tiron Explorer just before Workington and Silloth lifeboats attended.



Safe: Tom and Mary Bowness were rescued on TuesdayBORDER TV

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