



Regency Duty Free Unit of The Year

Howick Volunteer Coastguard, headed by Colin Small, have had an active year. In April 2005, while responding to a distress call, they themselves had to issue one. The engine fire on Howick Rescue One could not be controlled so the skipper made the call to abandon ship. This incident took HR1 out of action for a few months, during which time, another SAR member kindly lent them his own personal vessel. Howick continued to operate as an efficient unit available for any callouts.

The unit is proud of it's 7-10 minute response time, from pager callout to vessel on the water. With 140 incidents attended, this puts the unit as one of the highest in the country. Training is also a high priority with Howick and they have 10 CoC skippers, with more being trained up, and ongoing modules being delivered at frequent intervals. The unit have their own CBES qualified tutors who often hold education courses at the Howick facility. They have a successful recruitment program, resulting in regular fresh recruits, often very capable people, joining the unit.

Howick's systems ensure prompt lodging of incident sheets, crew lists and the myriad of other paperwork associated with running a unit. The unit is also very active in fundraising initiatives, selling the highest number of tickets in the last summer lottery, with 3000 being sold on the street. Such support from the community comes as no surprise to the unit as they work constantly with local community bodies for funding and education.

**Howick's remarkable year surely earns them the award of
"Unit Of The Year".**