

09-12-2016 Kikee Ireland - Caitriona Lucas - CG Attempted Rescue – Boat Accident

Tributes paid to Coast Guard member who died off Co Clare

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/tributes-paid-to-coast-guard-member-who-died-off-co-clare-1.2788375#.V9ewWv3FVRI.facebook>

Mon, Sep 12, 2016, Updated: Tue, Sep 13, 2016

Man and second woman on rescue boat airlifted by helicopter off Kilkee



Coast guard volunteer Caitriona Lucas, from Liscannor, who died in hospital after her boat capsized off the coast of Co Clare. Coast guard volunteer Catriona Lucas, from Liscannor, who died in hospital after her boat capsized off the coast of Co Clare.

An Irish Coast Guard volunteer, who was a mother of two children, died after a rescue boat capsized and threw the three people on board into the sea off Kilkee, Co Clare, yesterday.

The other two volunteers were rescued, but one of them spent several hours trapped on a ledge at the base of a cliff before being winched to safety.

The woman who died was Caitriona Lucas (41), who worked as a librarian with Clare County Council. She was the first Coast Guard volunteer to die on a search and recovery operation.

Ms Lucas, who lived in Liscannor, was taking part in a search for a man reported missing last week. She was an experienced member of the Doolin Coast Guard team in which she served alongside her husband Bernard.

Originally from Ballyvaughan in Clare, Ms Lucas worked as a librarian with the County Council and she also trained her dogs with the Search And Rescue Dog Association.

The three crew members were thrown from their Delta rigid inflatable boat (rib) on the western side of Kilkee Bay at lunchtime. The Rib was extensively damaged after being swept on to the base of a cliff.

It is understood weather conditions prevented the search operation going ahead until shortly before lunchtime and there were heavy afternoon swells.

Once the alarm was raised a major rescue operation was mounted with the Doolin unit of the Coast Guard along with Kilrush and Aran Islands RNLI lifeboats mobilised.

The crew of the Shannon-based search and rescue helicopter, Rescue 115, recovered two women from the water. Ms Lucas was airlifted to University Hospital Limerick in an unresponsive state and was later pronounced dead.



Irish Coast Guard

<https://www.facebook.com/IrishCoastGuard/posts/1199203140123519>

September 12, 2016



Statement by the Irish Coast Guard

The Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) regrets to announce that a volunteer member of the Doolin Coast Guard unit lost her life today when participating in a search off Kilkee for a missing person which was being conducted by the local Kilkee and Doolin volunteer Coast Guard units. The deceased person was named as Caitriona Lucas. Her husband Bernard is also a member of the Doolin unit.

A RIB from Kilkee Coast Guard Unit, is believed to have capsized and the 3 occupants (2 female and 1 male) entered the water. Valentia Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Centre immediately launched a major Search and Rescue operation. The 2 females were located and recovered from the water, one by Rescue Helicopter based in Shannon (R115), and the 2nd by Delta RIB. Both were taken to hospital where Ms Lucas was pronounced dead.

The 3rd casualty, a male, was recovered from a nearby cave area, at around 17.30 by a Coast Guard helicopter following an extensive and complex operation.

The Coast Guard extends sincere condolences to Lucas family and all the volunteer members of the Doolin and Kilkee units. The Coast Guard also wishes to thank all the other organisations that participated in today's search.



[Lagan Search & Rescue](#)

https://www.facebook.com/BelfastLifeboat/?hc_location=ufi
September 15 , 2016

Today, the volunteers of [Lagan Search & Rescue](#) carry grief in their hearts as our friends from the [Irish Coast Guard](#) pay their final respects to one of their own.

Caitriona Lucas was a mother, a wife, a Rescue Climber, a Boat Coxswain and a friend to all. A member of the Doolin Coast Guard Unit she was very well respected by all and interacted regularly with many of her Coast Guard colleagues throughout the country.

Her friends knew her as a quiet, unassuming and gentle natured person. She was there to help when needed and devoted her life to the Coast Guard.

Caitriona, who worked as a librarian, was also involved with SARDA Search and Rescue Dogs.

Caitriona will be very sadly missed by all her colleagues and by all involved in the wider community that is search & rescue.

We feel your pain.

The condolences and deepest sympathies of all in Belfast go to her family and to our friends in Doolin Coast Guard, including her husband, Bernard, who is also a member of that Unit.

Sleep easy, Caitriona. Duty done.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.