

DISTRESS Alerting

ONLY TO BE USED IN THE EVENT OF GRAVE AND IMMINENT DANGER TO A VESSEL OR PERSONS AND IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED SUCH AS FIRE, SINKING, MAN OVERBOARD etc.

VESSEL NAME:

MMSI:

CALL SIGN:

1. Ensure radio is switched ON
2. Open the cover to **RED** distress button
3. Press **RED** distress button **ONCE** and release
4. Scroll to relevant distress message (fire, sinking, MOB etc.)
(if omitted an undesignated distress will be transmitted)
5. **Press and Hold** the **RED** button for **5 seconds** (it will count down)
6. The radio will automatically switch to **Channel 16 (on VHF), 2182 kHz (on MF)**. Wait for 15 seconds. Then send the following voice message (speak **SLOWLY** and **CLEARLY**):

MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY

THIS IS (Name of vessel 3 times)

CALL SIGN **MMSI**

MAYDAY

THIS IS (Name of vessel, Call Sign, MMSI)

IN POSITION

(Latitude and Longitude, alternatively a true bearing and distance from a known point)

I AM (state the nature of the distress)

I REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

..... **PERSONS ON BOARD**

Any other vital information

(ie. type of vessel, hull colour, if abandoning to liferaft etc.)

OVER

Release Transmit button. Listen for acknowledgment. If you hear nothing for about 2 minutes repeat the distress voice call.

INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET

A – Alpha	K – Kilo	U – Uniform	0 – Zero
B – Bravo	L – Lima	V – Victor	1 – One
C – Charlie	M – Mike	W – Whisky	2 – Two
D – Delta	N – November	X – X-ray	3 – Three
E – Echo	O – Oscar	Y – Yankee	4 – Four
F – Foxtrot	P – Papa	Z – Zulu	5 – Five
G – Golf	Q – Quebec		6 – Six
H – Hotel	R – Romeo		7 – Seven
I – India	S – Sierra	. (full stop) stop	8 – Eight
J – Juliet	T – Tango	.(point) decimal	9 – Nine

VHF CHANNEL ALLOCATION

<i>Channel No</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
16	Distress, Safety and Calling
70	Digital Selective Calling (Absolutely no Voice)
6	Inter-ship working channel – primary, also ship – aircraft comm
8	Inter-ship working channel – secondary
72	Inter-ship working channel
77	Inter-ship working channel
80	UK Marina
11	Port operations
12	Port operations
14	Port operations
13	Safety and navigation between ships (bridge to bridge comm)
67	Small boat safety (HM Coastguard)
10,23,73,84,86	HMGC weather navigation and safety warnings
M (37), M2	Yacht safety and race management
15, 17	On-board comm at 1W only, Inter-ship port operations

Emergency: VHF Ch16, MF 2182 kHz, Phone 999 ask for coastguard

Shore Contact:

Other: MRCC Falmouth: +44 01326317575;

CIRM Medical Services: +39 0659290263; telesoccorso@cirm.it

A DSC Distress alert must include as a minimum the identification of the vessel in Distress and the ship's last known position. The MMSI number, position and time in UTC will be included automatically when interfaced with the ship's navigation equipment. A current position may be input manually if no GPS is available. If a position is more than 12 hours old, it will not have a time displayed. Alerts give immediate and absolute priority of communication to the ship in Distress. A Distress alert should only be transmitted if, in the opinion of the Master, the ship or a person on it is in Distress and requires immediate assistance. Retransmission of the DSC alert will be repeated every 3.5 to 4.5 minutes up until acknowledgement is received.

Ship to Shore Distress Alert may be transmitted as:

- A digital selective calling (DSC) alert on VHF/MF/HF, or
- A priority connection through Inmarsat Sat-C, or
- By EPIRB activation (a secondary means of DISTRESS alerting).

Note that when using Satellites and EPIRBs, nearby ships are unaware of your situation.

Ship to Shore Distress Alerting would typically be carried out as follows:

- Ships in A1 areas would alert using DSC on VHF Ch70, with Distress traffic following on channel 16 (156.8 MHz).
- Ships in A2 areas would alert using DSC on MF 2187.5 kHz indicating whether R/T (2182 kHz) or Telex (2174.5 kHz) is to be used for subsequent distress traffic.
- Ships in A3 areas would alert using Inmarsat or HF DSC.
- Ships in A4 areas would alert using HF DSC.

Ship to Ship Distress Alert may be transmitted as:

- A digital selective calling (DSC) alert in the VHF or MF bands is used to alert other ships in the vicinity to the fact that it is in distress.

Ship to Ship Distress Alerting would typically be carried out as follows:

- Ships in A1 areas would alert using DSC on VHF Ch70, with Distress traffic following on channel 16 (156.8 MHz).
- Ships in A2, A3, and A4 areas would alert using DSC on MF 2187.5 kHz indicating if R/T on 2182 kHz or NBDP/Telex on 2174.5 kHz is to be used for subsequent distress traffic.