

# **URGENCY CALL**

**ONLY TO BE USED IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF A PERSON OR VESSEL WHICH IS NOT IMMEDIATELY LIFE THREATENING** (e.g. medical advice, towing assistance, risk of collision for a vessel further off).

*You need to judge whether a particular situation requires distress or urgency call. If you have any doubt use distress. For example, if you are about to run down by a ship, you should use DSC distress and try to make a contact with the ship on channel 16 or 13. However, note that it is never advisable to use radio communication for collision avoidance due to notoriously poor success rate. Take early action to avoid these situations.*

**SEND PAN-PAN Urgency Signal on DSC addressed to All SHIPS**  
(or addressed to individual ship or coast station, or a geographic area).

**WAIT FOR 15 seconds. Coast station should send DSC acknowledgment if within range.**

Speaking SLOWLY AND CLEARLY on Channel 16 (VHF) or 2182 kHz (MF) say:

**PAN-PAN, PAN-PAN, PAN-PAN**  
**ALL STATIONS, ALL STATIONS, ALL STATIONS**  
**(or individual station 3x)**  
**THIS IS** ..... (repeat Name of vessel 3 times)  
**CALL SIGN** ..... **MMSI** .....  
**PAN-PAN**  
**THIS IS** ..... (Name of vessel, Call Sign, MMSI)  
**IN POSITION** .....  
(Latitude and Longitude, alternatively a true bearing and distance from a known point)  
..... (nature of urgency)  
**ASSISTANCE REQUIRED**  
..... **PERSONS ON BOARD**  
Any other vital information ..... (i.e. type of vessel, hull colour, etc.)  
**OVER**

Release Transmit button and wait for acknowledgment. If acknowledgement is not received after 2 minutes, repeat the urgency call and message.

Ships receiving a DSC urgency announcement addressed to all ships should not acknowledge receipt of the DSC announcement but should tune to the frequency indicated and listen to the urgency message, on the R/T frequency in the same band.

**If no message is heard after 5 minutes, a Coast Station should be notified, and normal working resumed.**