

MARINE SHORT RANGE VHF RADIO

Basic Characteristics:

Operates on “Line of Sight” between two stations. So around 3.5 miles between small craft, maximum around 30-35 miles to Coastguard aerials. Two transmit powers, Low Power 1 watt, High Power 25 watt. Low power is usually sufficient for boat to boat (line of sight) communication.

Key Channels:

Channel 16 is the “listening channel”. Call on Channel 16, then move to a free working channel. Inter-ship channels are 6,8,72,77. If you call the Coastguard they will direct you to Channel 67. Harbour Channels are typically 12 & 14. The Nautical Almanacs and Pilot Guides list the channels to use.

Voice Protocols: (Pro Words)

Always identify who you are calling, and who you are. This ensures that you get the correct message to the correct station. For example, “Hansel, this is Gretel. Over”. “Gretel this is Hansel. Go to Channel 8. Over”

At the end of a conversation, use the word “Out”. Often with the pro word “All Received”. For example “Hansel this is Gretel. All received. Out”

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday

Only to be used when there is “grave and imminent danger”. Use the Red Button,- hold in for 5 seconds - then the voice message:

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday
This is (name, name, name)
MMSI Number

Mayday (name)
MMSI Number
My location is 54 25 North 016 33 West.
I am on fire and sinking.
I require immediate assistance.
Four people on board, all with Lifejackets.
We have a Liferaft.
Over