



Distress procedures

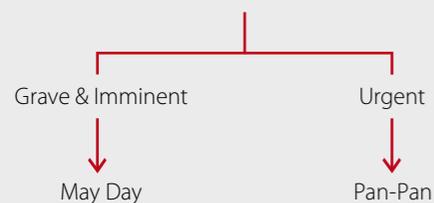
1. Adjust squelch (mute) control to give maximum receiver noise.
2. Select a channel using the following order of preference:
 - a. Primary distress and calling channel. This is normally CH.16; or
 - b. Your local repeater or working channel.
3. Transmit the full emergency message slowly and clearly.

Note:

“MAYDAY” should be used ONLY IF the vessel is in GRAVE AND IMMINENT DANGER WITH EXPECTED LOSS OF LIFE.

If this is not fully justified use the urgency signal “PAN PAN” – eg: a very urgent message concerning safety of a vessel or person whilst not being in grave or imminent danger.

EMERGENCY SITUATION



Example:

**“MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY”
(or PAN PAN, PAN PAN, PAN PAN)**

**HELLO ALL STATIONS, HELLO ALL STATIONS,
HELLO ALL STATIONS**

1. This is (Name, Callsign and/or Registration Number of your vessel). **Repeat three (3) times.**
2. Give position of your vessel in relation to a **well known landmark**. Include State or part of the country for reference to avoid confusion.
3. State the nature of distress (or urgency) and the assistance required.
4. State what your intentions are.
5. Give any other information that may assist with the rescue and answer all questions put to you by the receiving station.
6. If you receive no reply, repeat the transmission on another channel, but first state which channel you are changing to.
7. Continue to transmit your distress call for as long as you are able or until your call is answered.

If no answer after one minute- repeat the call



No response after repeating twice



Change to another frequency such as local repeater or port authority



Repeat sample call twice



No response



Check radio and antenna connections



Repeat process from top of chart

MAST

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VHF radio in Tasmania

A GUIDE TO OPERATING A
MARINE RADIO IN TASMANIA



MAST

MARINE and SAFETY TASMANIA
making boating better



Tasmania

Introduction

There are three types of marine radio that you may install on your boat:

VHF – short range marine transceivers, costing from \$150, suitable for inshore and coastal use.

MF/HF – long range marine transceivers, costing from \$3,500, suitable for offshore and ocean cruising.

27MHz – short range marine transceivers, costing from \$99 (now regarded as obsolete).

This brochure will concentrate on the popular VHF radio service.

Note: Mobile phones should not be relied on to summon assistance while at sea. More than one person is likely to hear your distress call on a **marine radio**.

MAST requirements

MAST requires that any recreational vessel operating outside sheltered waters must carry a marine radio.

Sheltered waters are all waters not exceeding 2 nautical miles to seaward of land on the North and East coasts between Cape Grim and South East Cape. Other specific sheltered waters areas are listed in the MAST “Operational Areas” information sheet and in the Tasmanian Safe Boating Handbook or at www.mast.tas.gov.au

About VHF

A VHF radio is the best radio for recreational vessels in Tasmania for the following reasons:

- Tasmania is served by a network of VHF base and repeater stations that cover almost the entire coastline.
- VHF is not usually affected by Ionospheric or atmospheric conditions.
- VHF is monitored by Coast Stations operated by Volunteers and Port Authorities, virtually on a 24 hour basis.
- Shipping and commercial vessels also monitor VHF CH 16.
- VHF talk through repeaters increase substantially the effective range of a vessel’s VHF radio.

Areas covered by volunteer coast stations

Volunteer Coast Stations monitoring VHF on a 24hr basis or for a substantial part of the day include:

Coast Radio Hobart – Low Rocky Point to South East Cape on repeater 82 (Maatsuyker Island) and South East Cape to East of Flinders Island on CH16 via remote base stations at South Bruny Island (Mt Mangana), Maria Island (Mt Maria), and Falmouth (South Sister Mountain).

Coastguard Tamar – West of Flinders Island to Rocky Cape on CH16 (Mt Horror), with even greater distances into Bass Strait on repeater channel 80 (Dazzler Range) and 82 (Mt Horror).

Smithton Radio – Rocky Cape to Petrel Island on CH16, with greater distances being covered by Repeater 81 South to Connicle Rocks, and Repeater 21 (Three Hummock Island) to the King Island area.

For detailed sked times etc. of all stations, check the MAST website: www.mast.tas.gov.au

Basic operating rules

1. Use CH16 only as a Distress and Calling channel.
2. On establishing contact with the called station on CH16, switch to a working channel. Boat to boat working channels are 72, 73 and 77. **Note: Duplex Ch 78 cannot be used for ship to ship communications.**
3. When calling a **shore** station on CH16, that station will usually direct you to a ship to shore working channel.
e.g. Coast Radio Hobart, Coast Radio Hobart this is (Callsign or Name, Callsign or Name).
Coast Radio Hobart replies:
(Callsign or Name), this is Coast Radio Hobart, CH78 please over.
4. When calling another vessel, call that vessel twice then identify yourself twice.
e.g. Bluefin, Bluefin this is Sea Fox, Sea Fox, over.
Bluefin replies:
Sea Fox this is Bluefin, Channel 77 please, over.
Sea Fox replies:
Going to Channel 77, over.
Both stations converse on CH77 then return to CH16.



5. Channels **6, 8** and **12** are **strictly reserved** for search and rescue and Port Operations.
6. Other channels in your VHF marine radio have been assigned for other activities and should not be used unless you are directly involved in those activities.
7. Channels **67, 68** and **69** are designated as secondary distress, urgency, safety working and “sked” channels and should **not** be used between ship stations for routine communications.
8. Keep transmissions as brief as possible then clear the channel for others to use.

Position reporting

MAST recommends that you use your radio to report your trip departure to the coast station in your area by stating the Name or Callsign of your vessel, your intentions and number of people onboard. REMEMBER if you check in please CHECK OUT.

The safety signal

The word SECURITÉ, (pronounced SAY-CURE-E-TAY) will be heard from time to time, and usually precedes an important safety message broadcast by a station such as a Notice to Mariners and any weather warnings issued by the BOM.

Repeater channels

Tasmania’s coastline is covered by a series of repeaters. In essence repeaters are range extenders. The nominal range of a repeater is 50 nm, but this will vary from repeater to repeater and it should also be noted that as VHF is essentially “line of sight”, some areas of coastline might be in a shadow zone.

To access a repeater you need to ascertain the position of the closest repeater to your vessel and select the appropriate channel on your VHF radio. Most repeaters are monitored by volunteer coast stations, but because the CH81 repeater in the South East is in Coast Radio Hobart’s primary service area, it is not monitored continuously by a shore station.



Four important points

- Always have your radio switched on to the Distress and Calling channel when out in your boat.
- Always stow your microphone in its holder when not in use.
- Make sure the international (INTL) mode is selected on your VHF radio. (Not USA or CAN) This ensures maximum output power and correct use of repeater and ship to shore duplex channels.
- Using a Marine VHF radio on shore is illegal except in emergency situations.