

RADIOTELEPHONE

MARINE DISTRESS COMMUNICATIONS FORM

Instructions: Complete this form now (except for items 6 through 9) and post near your radiotelephone for use if you are in DISTRESS.

SPEAK: SLOWLY—CLEARLY—CALMLY

1. Make sure your radiotelephone is on.
2. Select either VHF channel 16 (156.8 MHz) or 2182 kHz.
3. Press microphone button and say: "MAYDAY—MAYDAY—MAYDAY"
4. Say: "THIS IS _____"
Your call sign/boat name repeated three times
5. Say: "MAYDAY _____"
Your boat name
6. Tell where you are (What navigational aids or landmarks are near?).
7. State the nature of your distress.
8. Give number of persons aboard and conditions of any injured.
9. Estimate present seaworthiness of your boat.
10. Briefly describe your boat: _____ feet; _____; _____ hull;
Length Type Color
_____ trim; _____ masts; _____
Color Number Anything else you think will help rescuers find you
11. Say: "I WILL BE LISTENING ON **CHANNEL 16/2182.**"
Cross out one which does not apply.
12. End message by saying: "THIS IS _____ . OVER."
Your boat name and call sign
13. Release microphone button and listen; someone should answer.
IF THEY DO NOT, REPEAT CALL, BEGINNING AT ITEM NO. 3 ABOVE.
If there is still no answer, switch to another channel and begin again.

RADIOTELEPHONE REMINDERS

- Post station license and have operator license available.
- Whenever the radio is turned on, keep the receiver tuned to the distress frequency (2182 kHz or 156.8 MHz).
- Use 2182 kHz and 156.8 MHz for calling, distress, urgency, or safety only.
- Listen before transmitting on any frequency to avoid interfering with other communications.
- If you hear a MAYDAY, talk only if you can help. Be prepared to render assistance or relay the distress message if necessary.
- Identify by call sign at the beginning and end of each communication.
- Keep all communications as brief as possible.
- Keep your radio equipment shipshape. Have it checked periodically by a qualified, licensed technician.
- Notify the FCC of changes to mailing address, licensee's name, and vessel name.
- False distress signals are prohibited.
- Radiocommunications are private, and divulgence of content without permission is prohibited.
- Don't use profane or indecent language.