

16

9

22A

13

68 69 71 72 78A

DISTRESS (ALWAYS MONITOR)

Reserved for distress and safety calls. Contact calls to other vessels or shore stations.

ALTERNATE CONTACT CALLING

Between pleasure vessels and to shore stations. Sometimes safety messages.

SAFETY BROADCASTS

Used for safety broadcasts and U.S. Coast Guard communications.

INTERSHIP NAVIGATION SAFETY

Navigational purposes by commercial, and recreational vessels at bridges, locks, and harbors.

NON COMMERCIAL CHANNELS

Use for regular conversations. (In most areas, 68 and 72 are commonly used by the recreational-boating community.)

Always monitor Channel 16 in case a nearby boat needs help and to hear Coast Guard safety messages.

Speak clearly and slowly

Avoid chatter

NEED HELP

Use channel 16 and set power to high

State your vessel's name, latitude and longitude, a brief description of your boat, and the nature of your emergency

20 Mile Range



RADIO CHECK

Do Radio Checks on Recreational Channels. TowBoatUS on 68 is an easy way to conduct a check.

IMMEDIATE DANGER AND DISTRESS

(To announce when a vessel and/or person is threatened by grave or imminent danger and requires immediate assistance.)

Mayday
Mayday
Mayday

MODERATELY THREATENING

(to announce when the safety of a vessel or person is in jeopardy but not immediately life threatening.)

Pan-pan
Pan-pan
Pan-pan

(pahn-pahn)

LEAST THREATENING

(to announce a navigation safety message, or giving important weather warnings.)

Securite
Securite
Securite

(sea-cur-i-tay)

HAIL ANOTHER VESSEL

Call the name of the vessel two or three times, followed by your own vessel's name and station ID if applicable. Wait for a response then immediately switch to a working channel.

16

switch to

XX

"Seascape, Seascape, Seascape, this is Espresso WDA9048 on channel 16, over."

"Espresso, this is Seascape. Switch channel [XX], over."

"Espresso switching 68."

"Espresso returning to stand by channel 16," or "Seascape out."

HAIL A MARINA

Call the name of the harbor, followed by your own vessel's name and channel you're on. Wait for a response then immediately switch to a working channel.

16

switch to

XX

"Kodiak Harbormaster,....Radiance,on 16."

"Radiance,Kodiak harbor, switch to 68."

"68, thank you."

"Kodiak Harbor, Radiance, I'm looking for..."

Or find out your Marina's VHF Channel on your GPS.

HAIL A BRIDGE

Call for the Bridgetender followed by your own vessel's name, heading and name of bridge you are requesting to open.

13 9

"Bridge Tender, Bridge Tender, this is the Joint Venture, approaching from the south and requesting opening of the Middle River bridge."

"Thank you."

Or use horn to sound one prolonged blast followed with one short blast.

PHONETIC ALPHABET

A alpha	B bravo	C charlie	D delta	E echo		
F foxtrot	G golf	H hotel	I india	J juliett	K kilo	L lima
M mike	N november	O oscar	P papa	Q quebec	R romeo	S sierra
T tango	U uniform	V victor	W whiskey	X xray	Y yankee	Z zulu