

## Distress procedures

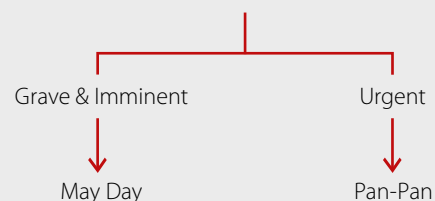
1. Adjust squelch (mute) control to give maximum receiver noise.
2. Select a channel using the following order of preference:
  - a. Primary distress and calling channel. This is normally CH.16; or
  - b. Your local repeater or working channel.
3. Transmit the full emergency message slowly and clearly.

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

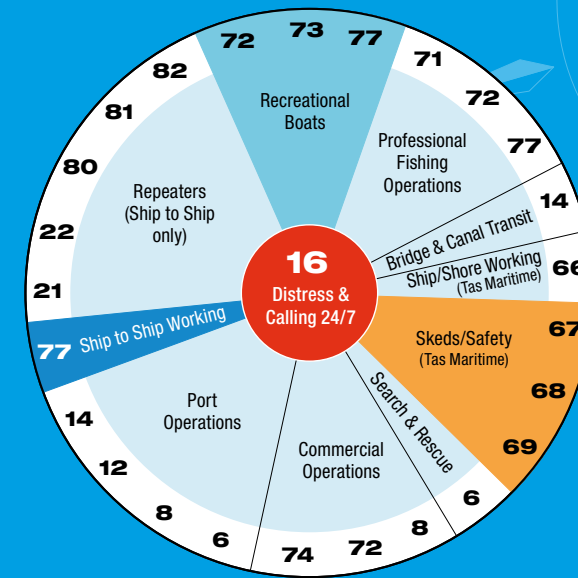


Check radio and antenna connections



Repeat process from top of chart

## VHF marine radio channels



## MAST

MARINE and SAFETY TASMANIA  
making boating better

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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

## Introduction

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

VHF – short range marine transceivers, suitable for inshore and coastal use.

MF/HF – long range marine transceivers, suitable for offshore and ocean cruising.

## 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](http://www.mast.tas.gov.au)

## 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.

## 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, 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.

## Marine VHF Radio Network Tasmania

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

**Tas Maritime Radio** - Covering from Flinders Island and down the east coast, SE coastal waters including Storm Bay, River Derwent, D’Entrecasteaux Channel, along the south coast and up the west coast to Sandy Cape, including Macquarie Harbour.

**Smithton Radio** – via the VHF base on Three Hummock Island covers north from Sandy Cape, well into Bass Strait and along the North Coast.

**Tamar Sea Rescue** – West of Flinders Island to Rocky Cape (monitor on weekends and public holidays).

The receiver receives transmissions on the repeater channel frequency and then re-transmits this through the transmitter. In essence repeaters are range extenders.

The nominal range of each repeater is 80km, 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. The repeater channels are what is known as “duplex”, in that the transmitting and receiving frequencies are different. This is different to the “simplex” channels, such as Channel 16 in which the transmitting and receiving frequencies are the same.

The repeaters are now used mainly for vessel to vessel communications as CH16, the international distress and calling channel, is monitored 24/7 by Tas Maritime Radio and some shore stations. Some repeaters in the north of the state are sometimes monitored by volunteer radio stations.

## 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:

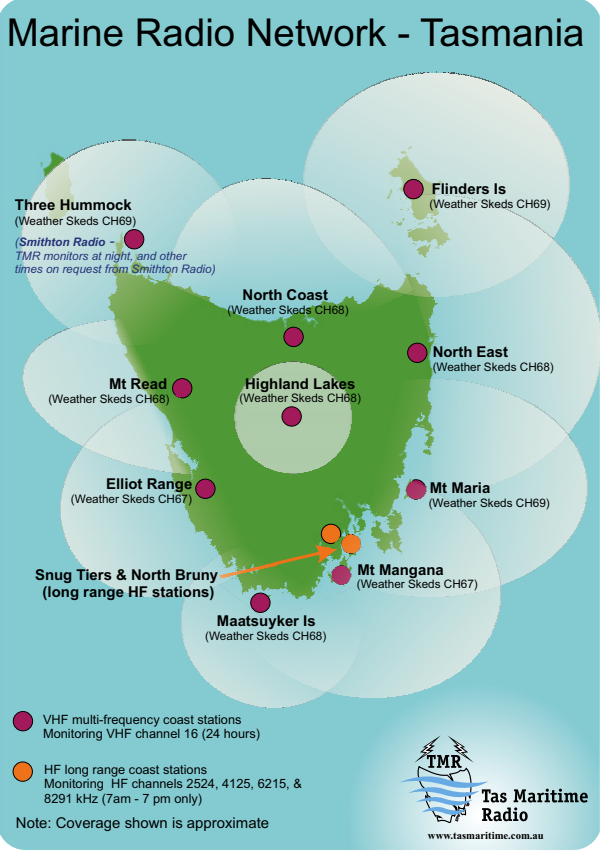
(Callsign or Name), this is Tas Maritime Radio, CH77 please over.

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.

Location	Channel Number	Monitored by
Maatsuyker Island	82	Not routinely monitored
Cape Sorell	80	Not routinely monitored
Bluff Hill Point	81	Mersey Radio and Smithton Radio
Dazzler Range	80	Mersey Radio and Tamar Sea Rescue
Mount Horror	82	Mersey Radio, Tamar Sea Rescue, St Helens Marine Rescue
Cape Tourville	80	Not routinely monitored
Mt Raoul	81	Not routinely monitored
Three Hummock Island	21	Smithton Radio
Mt Maria	16	Tas Maritime Radio

## 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.



## 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.