



## Seattle Mountaineers Sailing Program

### *Radio Distress Call*

#### **Channels\***

Distress and Calling: 16

Pleasure Vessels: 09, 67, 68, 69, 71 and 72.

Vessel to Bridges: 13

Vessel Traffic System Puget Sound: 14

First make contact through CHANNEL 16 and then move to the appropriate channel.

#### **Making a Call**

- Make sure the Radio is turned on and set to the proper channel.
- Press microphone button and speak past the microphone but not directly into. Use a normal voice and do not yell.
- Release microphone button.
- Wait at least 30 seconds.
- If no reply after 2 minutes call again.
- If after 3 attempts wait at least 30 minutes before calling again.
- When you reach the other station go to a working channel and speak.
- If you expect an answer end your transmission with "OVER" or say "OUT"

#### **Types of Distress Calls**

The three spoken international emergency signals are:

- **SECURITY (se-cure-eh-tay):**  
The safety signal SECURITY is used for messages about the safety of navigation or important weather warnings.
- **PAN PAN:**  
The urgency signal PAN PAN is used when the safety of the ship or person is in jeopardy.
- **MAYDAY:**  
The distress signal MAYDAY is used to indicate that a station is threatened by grave and imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.

## Scripts

### MAYDAY

MAYDAY - MAYDAY – MAYDAY

This is *vessel name, vessel name, vessel name*

MAYDAY *vessel name*

My position is..... (*latitude and longitude or a true bearing and distance from a known point*)

I am ..... (*sinking, there is a person overboard, we are on fire*)

I require immediate assistance.

I have XX number of people on board.

My vessel is (*color, size, type, sail color or other traits*)

There are XX individuals who require immediate medical attention (if appropriate).

Any other information that will assist emergency. (*The captain is injured and I don't know how to operate the vessel, I fired a flare at TIME, we are drifting into xxxx, I have a hardbottom dingy that can hold xx people*)

### PLEASURE CRAFT DIALOGUE

NAME OF VESSEL STATION you are calling three times, THIS IS (your vessel's name). For example:

**Railroad Trestle Bridge, Railroad Trestle Bride, Railroad Trestle Bridge**  
**This is Wandering Star**

Procedure Words (PROWORDS)	
Procedure Word	Meaning
OUT	This is the end of my transmission to you. No answer is required or expected.
OVER	This is the end of my transmission and a response is expected. Go ahead, transmit. Omit when it is clearly not needed.
ROGER	I received your last transmission OK.
WILCO	Your last message has been received, understood, and will be compiled with.
THIS IS	This transmission is from the station whose name and call sign follows immediately.
FIGURES	Figures or numbers follow, for example, "Vessel length is FIGURES two three feet.
SPEAK SLOWER	Your transmission is difficult to understand. Speak slower.
SAY AGAIN	Repeat.
WORDS TWICE	It is difficult to understand you. Give each phrase twice.
I SPELL	I shall spell the next word phonetically. Used when a proper name is important in the message. "Boat name is Martha. I spell – Mike, Alfa, Romeo, Tango, Hotel, Alfa.
WAIT	I must pause for few seconds; stand by for further transmission.
WAIT OUT	I must pause for longer than a few seconds. I Will call you back.
AFFIRMATIVE	You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct.
NEGATIVE	No.

The Phonetic Alphabet		
Letter	Phonetic	
	Equivalent	Pronunciation
A	ALPHA	<b>AL</b> * FAH
B	BRAVO	<b>BRAH</b> VOH
C	CHARLIE	<b>CHAR</b> LEE
D	DELTA	<b>DELL</b> TAH
E	ECHO	<b>ECK</b> OH
F	FOXTROT	<b>FOKS</b> TROT
G	GOLF	GOLF
H	HOTEL	HO <b>TELL</b>
I	INDIA	<b>IN</b> DEE AH
J	JULIETT	JEW LEE <b>ETT</b>
K	KILO	<b>KEY</b> LOH
L	LIMA	<b>LEE</b> MAHM
M	MIKE	MIKE
N	NOVEMBER	NO <b>VEM</b> BER
O	OSCAR	<b>OSS</b> CAH
P	PAPA	PAH PAH
Q	QUEBEC	KEH <b>BECK</b>
R	ROMEO	<b>ROW</b> ME OH
S	SIERRA	SEE <b>AIR</b> RAH
T	TANGO	<b>TAN</b> GO
U	UNIFORM	<b>YOU</b> NEE FORM
V	VICTOR	<b>VIK</b> TAH
W	WHISKEY	<b>WISS</b> KEY
X	XRAY	<b>ECKS</b> RAY
Y	YANKEE	<b>YANG</b> KEY
Z	ZULU	ZOO LOO

\* Emphasis is on the part of the word in **Bold Italics**

Pronunciation of Numbers	
Number	Pronunciation
0 - ZERO	ZERO
1 - ONE	WUN
2 - TWO	TOO
3 - THREE	THUH REE
4 - FOUR	FO WER
5 - FIVE	FI YIV
6 - SIX	SIX
7 - SEVEN	SEVEN
8 - EIGHT	ATE
9 - NINE	NINER