

HELPFUL APPS

Trip preparation Boating Vic 	Weather tools BOM Weather 
Log your trip Coast Guard SafeTrx 	Share your location Emergency + 

CONTACTS

Australian Communications and Media Authority
acma.gov.au 1300 850 115

Australian Maritime College
amc.edu.au 1300 365 262

Australian Maritime Safety Authority
amsa.gov.au 1800 627 484

Bureau of Meteorology
bom.gov.au/marine 03 9669 4000

Marine Radio Victoria
VHF Operations: 02 6151 6688
HF Operations: 02 6279 5774

Maritime Safety Victoria
msw.vic.gov.au 1800 223 022

BOM telephone weather

Port Phillip, Western Port local waters: 1300 978 022
Victorian coastal waters: 1300 915 615
Full state service: 1300 978 022.

OTHER SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB)

All recreational vessels heading out more than 2 nm from the coast are required to carry an approved 406 Mhz EPIRB.

We recommend that all vessels carry a GPS-enabled EPIRB to instantly alert rescuers to your distress and your location.

Personal locator beacon (PLB)

PLBs are smaller and lighter than EPIRBs. You can attach one to your lifejacket so it remains upright and out of the water if you fall in.

Note: PLBs are not considered a substitute for EPIRBs when adhering to State marine carriage regulations.

Register your EPIRB and PLB with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Mobile phones

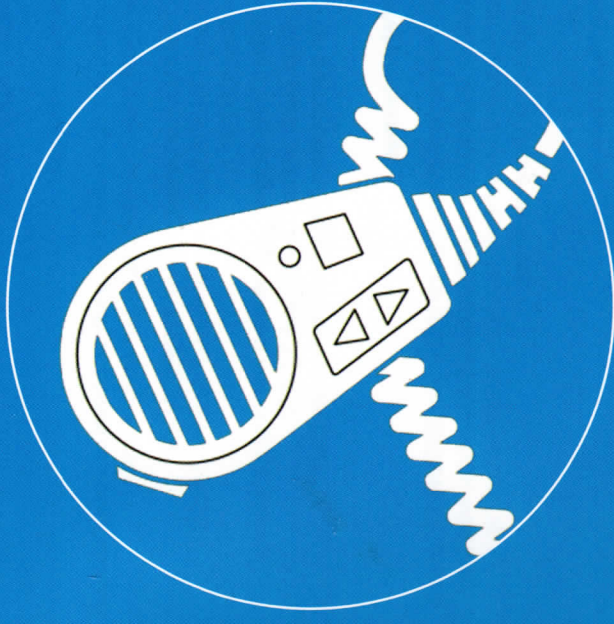
In an emergency you should call triple zero (000)

Having a mobile phone does not replace the need to have a marine radio because:

- if it gets wet, it may not work. Keep your phone in a waterproof pouch as a back-up
- you can't communicate with other boaters or ships.

MARINE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

A guide to using marine radio on Victorian waterways



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RADIO PROCEDURES

Routine message

In making a normal call to another vessel or coast station the most important points to remember are:

- Say: '(other vessel name)' THREE TIMES
- Say: 'THIS IS (your vessel name)' THREE TIMES
- Say: 'OVER'
- When they answer, agree on a working frequency
- After each transmission, say: 'OVER'
- On completion of conversation, say: 'OUT'.

Safety message

This message is preceded by the word '**SECURITE**' and is used for broadcasts of navigational warnings, weather warnings and weather forecasts – initiated by ship stations and shore stations.

Urgency message

An urgency message indicates that the station sending it has a very urgent message to transmit concerning the safety of a vessel or aircraft, or the safety of a person. Urgency messages are sent on all distress frequencies and are identified by the words and sequence:

- '**PAN PAN**' THREE TIMES
- 'HELLO ALL STATIONS' THREE TIMES
- 'THIS IS... (your vessel name)' THREE TIMES
- 'Urgency message' ONCE
- 'OUT'.

Distress message

Distress messages are only sent when a vessel is in grave or imminent danger. Distress messages take priority over all other calls, so if you hear anything that sounds even remotely like a distress message, you should suspend your own calls immediately.

In an emergency, the vessel in distress has full control over all other calls; not the coast station or other vessels which may be involved, unless control is delegated.

- Say: '**MAYDAY**' THREE TIMES
- Say: 'THIS IS... (your vessel name)' THREE TIMES
- Say: 'MAYDAY – THIS IS... (your vessel name)' ONCE
- State your position as accurately as you can
- Describe the problem
- Say how many people are on board and time afloat.

MARINE RADIO VICTORIA

In Victoria, VHF and HF emergency radio traffic is monitored and recorded by Marine Radio Victoria (MRV) 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

MRV covers the Victorian coastline, up to 20 nautical miles from the coast on the VHF emergency channels and out to 200 miles for the HF emergency frequencies.

MRV also provides radio checks and broadcasts weather forecasts and warnings.



In an emergency

VHF channels: 16 and 67 for voice, 70 for digital selective calling (DSC).

DSC

If your radio has a DSC button, push it to transmit a distress signal with your radio's maritime mobile service identity (MMSI) to all stations and other boats with DSC. All radios with DSC must have an MMSI – find out how they work and how to get one on the AMSA website.

Vessels equipped with GPS should ensure the DSC radio is connected to enable the vessel location to be transmitted

Other radio types

MF: MF (2182 kHz) can only be used for ship-to-ship communications.

27Mhz: Monitoring of 27Mhz is limited and the radio quality is unreliable.

We recommend that boaters install a VHF radio instead of a 27Mhz radio to take advantage of the benefits of MRV and the superior functionality of VHF radios.

RADIO WEATHER

MRV broadcasts the following Bureau of Meteorology weather information on VHF channel 67:

- **Victorian coastal waters forecasts** – including Bass Strait (four zones) as well as Port Phillip, Western Port and Gippsland Lakes – at 06:48 and 18:48 EST.
- **Initial weather warning** as soon as possible after receipt.
- **Current weather warnings** at 00:48, 02:48, 04:48, 06:48, 08:48, 10:48, 12:48, 14:48, 16:48, 18:48, 20:48, 22:48 EST following initial broadcast, until cancelled.
- **Notices of cancellation** of weather warning as soon as possible after receipt and at the next scheduled Victorian coastal weather forecast broadcast.

Broadcasts and cancellations of weather warnings will be preceded by a SECURITE announcement on VHF channel 16.

QUALIFICATIONS

VHF

The Australian Waters Qualification is the minimum qualification you must have to operate a VHF marine radio.

The course includes how to use VHF radio and digital selective calling (DSC).

Learn more on the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) website.

➤ Further study - VHF and MF/HF

The Office of Maritime Communications at the Australian Maritime College (AMC) is responsible for the management of Marine Radio Operators Certificates in Australia.

27 MHz

You don't need a qualification to operate the less effective 27Mhz radio but should follow marine radio procedures.