

MAY DAY – CHANNEL 16

Issue a May Day VHF transmission if and when there is a **"GRAVE AND IMMINENT THREAT REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE"**

Staying calm is vitally important to making a clear transmission for assistance. Turn the radio to **Channel 16**, (there may be a short cut button with 16 or DSC). Wait a moment to ensure that there is no other emergency transmission in progress. Mayday is always stated three times in a row, to ensure that it is heard accurately, and to distinguish it from radio talk about receipt of a Mayday call. It is essential to speak clearly, slowly, and split numbers for example, say One-Five instead of Fifteen. If you know the phonetic alphabet - Use it! (i.e. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie etc.)

Hold the microphone a few inches away from your mouth.
STAY CALM, talk **SLOWLY & CLEARLY** rushing through the transmission is not going to help you get help any faster.

"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday"

"This is [vessel name x 3]"

"Mayday ["vessel name"] my position is [current position, speed and bearing]"

"We are a [sailboat, motorboat, etc.] experiencing [distress situation] and require immediate assistance."

"There are [number] persons on board"

"[State any injuries/other additional information]."

(Length, colour, rig of boat can be helpful, as well as any intention to deploy a liferaft, etc.)

"Over."

PAN-PAN – CHANNEL 16

Pan-pan indicates an urgent situation of a lower order than a "grave and imminent threat requiring immediate assistance", such as a mechanical breakdown or a medical problem.

"Pan-Pan, Pan-Pan, Pan-Pan"

"This is [vessel name x 3]"

"My position is [current position]"

"[Give the nature of the problem] (for example, "Engines have ceased to work", "mast has snapped")"

"I require assistance to [state intended action]"

"There are [number] persons on board"

"We are [describe vessel]. (for example an Orange RIB)"

"Over."

CODE RED PROCEDURE

CODE RED CONTINGENCY PLAN for serious injuries or medical emergencies.

If a patrol boat finds a seriously injured sailor or one with a medical emergency, call on the race VHF channel:-

"CODE RED, CODE RED"

"This is [state patrol boat name, position & state the problem]"

"Over."

The nearest RIB acknowledges and goes to help. ESO or PRO will despatch patrol boat with first aider and/or go himself.

All other radio traffic is to be minimised and wait for further instructions from ESO or PRO.

The Patrol Boat, ESO, PRO or Race Box will **call 999 for an ambulance if necessary**. The Race Box will despatch someone to guide the ambulance to the location of the casualty (likely to be the First Aid Room).

For an injured sailor, the ambulance service always calls Solent Coastguard. So, **if an ambulance is needed, ESO must call Solent Coastguard on ch67 or Tel 02392 552 100**, to explain the problem and the actions taken so they are not surprised when the ambulance service calls them. Otherwise there is potential for the Coastguard to scramble the helicopter and RNLI.

For an incident in the harbour consider also calling Chichester Harbour Master on ch14, 01243 512 301.

Casualty to be identified to ambulance, from Tally if necessary.

In the case of an urgent, serious medical emergency, any patrol boat should make a ch16, PAN PAN or MAYDAY call for rapid assistance.

