VHF Marine Radio Channel Reference

VHF Marine Channel Number | Authorized Use
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16 | International Distress, Safety and Hailing. Maintain a listening watch on this channel.
09 | Alternate Hailing Channel.
13 | Intership Navigation, Draw bridges & locks.
68, 69, 71, 72, 78A | Non-Commercial
06 | Intership Safety
17, 21A, 22A, 23A, 81A, 82A, 83A | State and Federal Government only
07A, 08, 19A, 67* 79A, 80A, 88A* | Commercial
24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 84, 85, 86 | Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
15 | Receive only. Used by Class C EPIRBs.
70 | Digital Selective Calling (voice not allowed)

**PUSH** the microphone key to talk.  **LET GO** of the microphone key to LISTEN!!!

**TO TALK TO ANOTHER VESSEL**

**SET** the radio to channel 16

(Or channel 9 in some areas)

**SAY** the other vessel's name three times.

**SAY** "This is" and the name of your vessel.

**WAIT** two minutes for a response before repeating.

**WAIT** fifteen minutes if no response after three tries.

**WHEN OTHER VESSEL RESPONDS**

**ASK** them to switch to a recreational vessel channel.

**RECREATIONAL VESSEL CHANNELS**

68 69 71 72 78

OTHER CHANNELS ARE ASSIGNED SPECIFIC USES.

IT IS A VIOLATION TO USE THEM IMPROPERLY.

Obtain local information about special channel uses and customs when traveling to unfamiliar areas.

**PUSH** the microphone key to talk.  **LET GO** of the microphone key to LISTEN!!!

**TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY**

(Immediate danger ONLY)

**SET** the radio to channel 16

**SAY** clearly: Mayday, Mayday, Mayday.

**SAY** "This is" and the name of your vessel three times.

**GIVE a brief description of your location and problem.**

**LET Go** of the microphone key to listen for an answer!

If no answer:

Repeat above and include description of your vessel, number of people, and exact nature of the emergency.

**TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE**

(No immediate danger)

**SAY** "United States Coast Guard" three times

**SAY** "This is" and the name of your vessel three times.

**EXPLAIN** the situation when your call is answered.

**TO USE THE RADIO**

**SET** the radio to channel 16

**LET GO** of the key to listen!

**EMERGENCY AND HAILING CHANNEL: 16**

**ALWAYS** monitor this channel

**PUSH** the microphone key to talk.

**LET GO** of the key to listen!

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