



RADIO ETIQUETTE HOW TO PLACE DISTRESS CALLS

Preparation proves helpful in every situation, especially at times of distress. If you are unfortunate enough to find yourself in need of help on the water, follow these steps to successfully get your message across.

1. Turn on your VHF and tune in to Channel 16
2. Press microphone button and repeat 3 times: "MAYDAY" or "PAN-PAN" or "SECURITY."
3. Say, "This is (your call sign/boat name - repeat 3 times)"
4. Identify your surroundings. Note navigational aids or landmarks.
5. State the nature of your distress, keeping details as simple as possible.
6. Give the number of persons aboard and the conditions of any injured.
7. Describe your boat in type, length, hull color, trim color and/or number of masts.
8. Estimate present sea worthiness of your vessel.
9. Say, "I WILL BE LISTENING ON CHANNEL 16."
10. End message by saying "THIS IS (your call sign/boat name) OVER."
11. Release microphone button and listen; someone should answer. If no reply happens within the first few minutes, repeat your distress call and continue the process until someone acknowledges your call for help.

VHF CHANNELS

| PURPOSE | CHANNEL |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Distress, Safety calls | 16 |
| Safety (ship to ship only) | 6 |
| Recreational Use | 9, 68, 69, 71, 72, 78 |
| Marine Operator | 24-28, 84-87 |
| Locks, Canals, Pilots, Bridges | 13 |
| Digital Selective Calls (DSC) | 70 |



SEA RAY MAKES ANOTHER BIG SPLASH

Sea Ray pulled off its third annual signature event for Aquapalooza 2008. This year a record 2,500 boats rafted up to each other under the searing sun of Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks. As one of the sponsors, NBOA was there to help.

"It was a great opportunity for us to interact with our customers," says Iceseas Hanson, NBOA marketing director. "With marine insurance, the realm of person-to-person contact is usually limited to boat shows. It was a real treat to spend the day with so many families on their boats." NBOA representatives made their rounds to Aquapalooza guests, passing out Frisbees and boating safety information – a few jet skis were even commandeered to get to the more distant boats. At the end of the day, three lucky Sea Ray families won NBOA's main event prizes – huge ski tubes from www.sportsstuff.com.

Other event highlights included live music from bands Cracker, Soul Asylum, and Everclear. As they played on the floating stage, 3,000 or more guests floated from boat to boat and it became quite obvious that Sea Ray had pulled it off again – Aquapalooza 2008 is this year's largest on-water party. One can only imagine what next year's event will do to top it!



UNDERSTATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE...

Of course we have all done it. The boat is ready to launch, our friends are putting on their sunscreen and our cooler is stocked with alcoholic beverages. Somewhere along the way, our perception of the dangers of driving under the influence, as compared to boating under the influence, has become dramatically skewed. Although the restrictions and enforcement may seem less strict, it is imperative not to overlook the importance of staying in control while navigating the waters this summer.

Alcohol consumption is more hazardous on water than on land because marine

environment elements accelerate a drinker's impairment. Exposure to the sun's rays alone cause fatigue, affecting the boat operator's coordination, judgment, and reaction time. Alcohol can also be more dangerous to boaters because boat operators are often less experienced and less confident on the water than on the highway. Unfortunately, they do not have the benefit of experiencing daily boat operation. According to the US Coast Guard, boaters average only 110 hours on the water per year. Throw in a couple of drinks and a "bump" in the road, and you have got one dangerous

mix. It's no surprise that the leading contributing factor to fatal boating accidents in 2007 was alcohol.

Conceptions of penalties are also misconstrued. It is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence in every state. Consequences range from large fines, loss of boat operator privileges, and even jail terms. To avoid trouble and potential danger this summer, be responsible. Know how much is too much and be aware of others on the water. It sounds almost too simple, but if we all really did our part to monitor our fun in the sun, the waters would be much safer.

GOING GREEN ON THE BIG BLUE

Caring for the environment and doing our part to make sure we all leave a safe and healthy world behind us is very important to NBOA. With increased dead-zones, endangered ecosystems, and reduced fish runs, it is essential we all do what we can to contribute less to the problem and become a part of the solution of healing our marine environment. That's why we've listed 5 simple, environmentally friendly tips that any boater can follow.

UPDATE YOUR OUTBOARD.

Switching to a four-cycle outboard or direct injection 2-stroke engine can help the environment and save you money. Older outboards release a combusted mixture of gasoline and oil into the water and air, wasting fuel and ruining the quality of the water. New outboards start easier, emit fewer leaks, and perform better. Some options nowadays even include diesel and electric outboards.

USE A DONUT.

Next time you fill your engine or your outboard up, make a donut by poking a hole through a piece of oil-absorbent material. Place the fuel nozzle through the hole, and you've got a simple first line of protection against fuel spillage. You can also place a catch container under your overflow spout so any overflow of fuel doesn't end up in the water.

USE A PUMP-OUT FACILITY.

Discharging raw sewage into the water adds nutrient-rich material to the water, ultimately contributing to the creation of dead zones and potentially hazardous areas of bacteria infected waters. The proper disposal is at pump-out stations. They are located near all major boating areas and marinas. Learn the locations of your local stations and get in the habit of using them.

CLOSE YOUR CRANKCASE.

Most older engines have open crankcases that ventilate combustion gases escaping from the cylinders (blow-

by gases) directly into the engine room. By installing a crankcase ventilator, you can improve the air quality inside your boat, reduce oil leaks into the engine room and bilge, and eliminate one key source of pollutant discharge. It's a simple and inexpensive change that either you or a mechanic can manage.

RESPECT MARINE LIFE.

No Wake zones mean NO WAKE. Especially on the gulf coast, boaters must be aware of a variety of marine mammals who make these waters their homes. Speeding in these restricted areas can ruin shallow ecosystems and will endanger its marine life. Wearing polarized sunglasses makes it easier to see floating objects in the water, including partially submerged marine mammals, like manatees. If you do encounter marine mammals, be sure to stay on their offshore side, keep your distance, and refrain from feeding or swimming with them...no matter how strong the urge!