**DEVICES CALLING FOR HELP**

There are a number of different products that can be used to call for help. With all activities we strongly encourage you to take a means of calling for help that is most suitable to your activity. We advise that you know how to use it, and keep it within reach at all times.

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**HANDBLED VHF/DSC**

*Very High Frequency/ Digital Selective Calling*

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**
- If possible, buy a DSC-equipped radio (some are not). A DSC distress alert is a recognised emergency signal, and it also transmits your location.
- Send a DSC alert followed by a mayday voice call on Channel 16. This communicates the distress message to all vessels and shore stations in range.
- Requires an operator's licence, a ship's portable radio or ship's radio licence (free in the UK if requested online) and a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number, which comes with the radio licence.

**SUITE FOR**
- **One-to-one or one-to-many:**
  - **PERSONAL**: VHF range is limited by antenna height.
  - **VESSEL**: Worldwide coverage

**EPIRB**

*Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon*

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**
- Recognised emergency signal.
- Can be float-free, automatic or manual.
- Must be registered with the coastguard to aid in rescue coordination.
- Always choose a GPS-enabled EPIRB.
- Must be registered with the relevant maritime rescue coordination centre, which will launch the correct search and rescue services.

**SUITE FOR**
- **One-to-one or one-to-many:**
  - **PERSONAL**: Worldwide coverage (frequency 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz)
  - **VESSEL**: Worldwide coverage (frequency 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz)

**PLB**

*Personal Locator Beacon*

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**
- Recognised emergency signal.
- Can be dropped next to a man in the water.
- Always choose a GPS-enabled PLB.
- Should always be on your person.
- Not all PLBs inherently float.
- Can also be used on land in areas where no phone signal is available.
- Unit needs to be held out of water for it to transmit.
- Transmits for 24 hours plus.
- Divers will need to carry the PLB in a dive canister.

**SUITE FOR**
- **One-to-one or one-to-many:**
  - **PERSONAL**: VHF range is limited by antenna height.
  - **VESSEL**: Worldwide coverage

**MOBILE PHONE**

*(in a waterproof pouch)*

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**
- Keep your mobile in a waterproof pouch. You should wear this on your person so it's within easy reach – it's no use if you can't reach it.
- Smart phones can provide a location, but emergency calls should be made by voice (call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard).
- The SafeTrx app can be used to log, track and send alerts about your trip.

**SUITE FOR**
- **One-to-one or one-to-many:**
  - **PERSONAL**: VHF range is limited by antenna height.
  - **VESSEL**: Worldwide coverage

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**ACTIVITY KEY**

- Angling
- Angling from the shore
- Bodyboarding
- Coasteering
- Commercial fishing
- Deep sea fishing
- Kayaking and canoeing
- Kitesurfing
- Motorboating
- Open water swimming
- Personal watercraft
- Rowing
- Stand up paddleboarding
- Sub aqua diving
- Surfing
- Tombstoning
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Yacht sailing

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**PERSONAL OR VESSEL**

Means the intended location for the storage of the device.

**GMDSS**

Is the recognised Global Maritime Distress Safety System approved by the International Maritime Organisation. It is recommended that you choose a GMDSS approved device and they are mandatory for certain vessels.

**ONE-TO-ONE**

The alert will be received by one person.

**ONE-TO-MANY**

The alert will be received by multiple recipients.

*1 nautical mile (nmile) is equivalent to about 1.2 miles.*
**THINGS TO CONSIDER**

• A DSC distress alert is a recognised emergency signal and it also transmits your location.
• Requires an operator’s licence, a ship’s portable radio or ship’s radio licence (free in the UK if requested online) and a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number, which comes with the radio licence.
• Send a DSC alert followed by a mayday voice call on Channel 16. This communicates the distress message to all vessels and shore stations in range.

**FIXED VHF/DSC**

**AIS MOB DEVICE**

**Personal or vessel:** VESSEL
**GMDSS approved:** ✓
**One-to-one or one-to-many:** ONE-TO-MANY
Communicates distress messages to all shore stations and vessels in range.

**Range:**
- Maximum 30 nmiles (depending on height of antenna)

**SUITABLE FOR**

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**

• Can be automatically activated – will work if casualty is unconscious.
• In a man overboard situation, this device automatically alerts all AIS receivers within range.
• Poor range if affected by obstacles.
• Should always be on your person.

**TRACKER**

**Personal or vessel:** PERSONAL
**GMDSS approved:**
**One-to-one or one-to-many:** ONE-TO-ONE
Communicates by electronically exchanging data with AIS receivers on ships and inland base stations.

**Range:**
- May be global (if it uses a satellite communications system) or local (if it uses a mobile phone local GSM network).

**SUITABLE FOR**

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**

• Yearly airtime contracts can be expensive, however trackers can be hired for shorter periods.
• They often have social functions to allow tracking by friends and family.
• Basic messaging is available on some models.
• SOS functions do not transmit directly to maritime rescue services, so rescue can take longer.
• Be aware that some trackers have no SOS function.

**FLARES**

**Personal or vessel:** PERSONAL AND VESSEL
**GMDSS approved:**
**One-to-one or one-to-many:** ONE-TO-MANY
Range:
- Parachute rocket – up to 28 nmiles
- Red pin point – up to 5 nmiles
- Orange smoke – up to 3 nmiles

**SUITABLE FOR**

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**

• Could be confused with background lights.
• Can be turned on and off.
• Can be thrown to a person in the water to aid their recovery.
• User replaceable batteries.
• Some double as a torch.

**EVDS**

**Electronic Visual Distress Signals**

**Personal or vessel:** PERSONAL AND VESSEL
**GMDSS approved:** ✓
**One-to-one or one-to-many:** ONE-TO-MANY
Signals made will be seen via vessels equipped with AIS or radar and any coastguard stations within range.

**Range:**
- Up to 10 nmiles
- May be as little as 2.5 nmiles – dependent on receiving antenna height.

**SUITABLE FOR**

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**

• Can be used for alerting and position finding.
• Must be placed as high as possible.
• Radar SARTs only transmit when they receive a radar signal.
• AIS SARTs transmit continuously.

**SART**

**Search and Rescue Transponder (AIS or Radar)**

**Personal or vessel:** VESSEL
**GMDSS approved:** ✓
**One-to-one or one-to-many:** ONE-TO-MANY
Signals made will be seen via vessels equipped with AIS or radar and any coastguard stations within range.

**Range:**
- Up to 10 nmiles
- Could be as little as 2.5 nmiles – dependent on receiving antenna height.