



# GMDSS

## BASICS

GMDSS IS MANDATORY UNDER SOLAS FOR MOST COMMERCIAL VESSELS.

### SEA AREAS

#### SEA AREA A1

VHF DSC COVERAGE  
APPROXIMATELY 20–30  
NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE  
COAST

#### SEA AREA A2

MF DSC COVERAGE  
UP TO APPROXIMATELY 150  
NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE  
COAST

#### SEA AREA A3

COVERED BY SATELLITE  
COMMUNICATIONS (INMARSAT)

#### SEA AREA A4

POLAR REGIONS OUTSIDE  
SATELLITE COVERAGE

### MF

#### DSC

2187.5 KHZ – MF DSC DISTRESS  
AND SAFETY ALERTING

#### VOICE

2182 KHZ – MF DISTRESS,  
URGENCY, AND SAFETY  
COMMUNICATIONS

### EPIRB & SART

#### SART

406 MHZ – SATELLITE DISTRESS ALERTING (COSPAS–SARSAT)  
121.5 MHZ – HOMING SIGNAL FOR SAR AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS

#### EPIRB

9 GHZ (X-BAND RADAR) – RADAR SART RESPONSE  
AIS-SART – USES AIS VHF FREQUENCIES VIA AIS SYSTEM

### DISTRESS ALERTING PRIORITY

1. DSC DISTRESS ALERT (VHF / MF / HF OR SATELLITE)
2. EPIRB ACTIVATION (AUTOMATIC OR MANUAL)
3. VOICE MAYDAY (IF TIME AND CONDITIONS PERMIT)
4. SART / AIS-SART ACTIVATED IN SURVIVAL CRAFT

### VHF

#### DSC

CHANNEL 70 – DSC DISTRESS, URGENCY,  
AND SAFETY ALERTING

#### VOICE

CHANNEL 16 – DISTRESS, URGENCY,  
SAFETY, AND CALLING  
CHANNEL 13 – BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE SAFETY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
CHANNEL 06 – ON-SCENE SAR  
COMMUNICATIONS (SAR UNITS)

### HF

#### DSC

4207.5 KHZ  
6312.0 KHZ  
8414.5 KHZ  
12577.0 KHZ  
16804.5 KHZ

#### VOICE

4125 KHZ  
6215 KHZ  
8291 KHZ  
12290 KHZ  
16420 KHZ