ZULU MARINER DATA CARD

8 RADIO: DISTRESS CALLS AND CHANNELS

VHF 16 first. Speak slowly, clearly, and give your position before anything else if time is short.

MAYDAY: GRAVE AND IMMINENT DANGER

1. **MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY**
2. This is **(vessel name) ×3**, call sign
3. **MAYDAY** (vessel name)
4. **Position**: lat and long, or bearing and distance from a known point
5. **Nature** of distress: sinking, fire, aground
6. **Assistance** required
7. **Persons on board**
8. Other: vessel description, EPIRB on, abandoning to liferaft
9. **OVER**

PAN-PAN: URGENT, NOT IN GRAVE DANGER

PAN-PAN ×3, ALL STATIONS ×3, this is (name) ×3, position, problem, help needed, persons on board, OVER.

Engine failure drifting toward rocks. Medical help needed. Person overboard (or MAYDAY if life is at risk).

SECURITE: SAFETY MESSAGE

SECURITE ×3, all stations, this is (name), then the hazard: a floating log, a mark off station, a gale coming.

HEAR A MAYDAY

- Write it down. Listen.
- Wait for the coast station to answer; if none answers in about 5 minutes, acknowledge and relay.
- Keep silence on 16 unless you can help.

PHONETIC NUMBERS

0	ZERO
1	WUN
2	TOO
3	TREE
4	FOW-ER
5	FIFE
6	SIX
7	SEV-EN
8	AIT
9	NIN-ER

PROCEDURE WORDS

OVER	your turn
OUT	finished
SAY AGAIN	repeat
SEELONCE MAYDAY	silence: distress working
SEELONCE FEENEE	distress over

AUSTRALIAN VHF CHANNELS

CH	USE	NOTES
16	Distress, urgency, safety and calling	Call here, then move to a working channel. Watched around the clock by Maritime Safety Queensland from Cooktown to the NSW border, and by the Port Authority of NSW around Sydney, Newcastle and Port Kembla.
67	Supplementary distress and safety	Back-up to 16. Weather and navigation warnings are announced on 16 and read here.
70	Digital selective calling only	Never used for voice. The red distress button on a DSC radio sends on this channel.
72, 77	Ship to ship	Boat to boat working channels.
73	Ship to shore and ship to ship	In NSW mostly used to talk to a Marine Rescue base.
21, 22, 80, 81, 82	Repeaters	Extend your range through a hilltop station. Safety and vessel movement messages only, kept short. Which ones work depends on the area: ask the local Marine Rescue unit.
13	Bridge to bridge	Navigation safety between ships.
Port channels	Port control and vessel traffic service	Each port has its own working channel. Check the port procedures before entering a shipping channel.

DSC: lift the cover, hold the red button 5 seconds; it sends your MMSI and GPS position on channel 70, then talk on 16. 27 MHz (channel 88) is still listed as a distress channel, but watch on it is patchy and many boats no longer carry it. Carry VHF and a registered EPIRB.

Study aid only. Not for navigation.
Check the current official rules. Card 8 · v1.7 · © Nautical Bridge