

**Student Name:**  
**Course Date:**

Prior to attending your RYA VHF Short Range Course (SRC), we require you to study some subjects beforehand to ensure you obtain the maximum potential out of the course. Don't worry if you don't fully understand the subjects as they will be refreshed on the course. We have split your pre-course knowledge up into 4 sections;

**The Mayday Call,**  
**Abbreviations,**  
**Channels,**  
**Phonetic Alphabet.**

It is recommended that you allow for up to 3 hours of time before your course date to study these subjects. Upon signing up to this course you will also receive the RYA's VHF Handbook (G22), this will assist you greatly.

## The Mayday Call

Whether you go boating round the world, in rough weather, on beautiful flat calm days, there is a high chance during your time afloat you will be required to perform a distress call, although we do hope this is never the case.

Distress situations will always arise when you are already under huge stress. Knowing what to do in an emergency can be the difference between life and death. The RYA has a method to help you remember the order of a Mayday Call – **MIPDANIO**.

**M – Mayday x3,**  
**I – Identification,**  
**P – Position,**  
**D – Distress type,**  
**A – Assistance required,**  
**N – Number of people on board,**  
**I – Information (additional information that should be passed on),**  
**O – Over.**

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, this is (vessel's name three times, call-sign and MMSI),

Mayday this is (vessel's name, call-sign and MMSI),

Position is (Lat&Long, or range and bearing from charted object),

I am (nature of distress, i.e. sinking, fire),

I require immediate assistance,

I have (number of people) on board,

Any other relevant information,

Over.

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It is highly recommended to become familiar with this call. It is also a good idea to create, or buy a radio procedure card (ask your instructor about this on your course) to ensure that this format is not forgotten during a stressful time.

## Abbreviations

There are a number of abbreviations used on the SRC course, to give you a head start here are some of the more frequent ones. To help this knowledge sink in, please go through your VHF handbook and discover what these abbreviations stand for;

**SRC:**

**VHF:**

**DSC:**

**MMSI:**

**MSI:**

**GMDSS:**

**AIS:**

**ATIS:**

**DW:**

**PTT:**

**EPIRB:**

**SART:**

## Channels

There are many channels used for VHF radio operations, and using the incorrect channel could lead to problems. So it's worthwhile understanding what the key channels are, and what they are used for. To help you out, below is a list of the key channels; we would like you to research what each one is used for.

**6/8:**

**9:**

**10:**

**11/12:**

**13:**

**16:**

**23:**

**37:**

**67:**

**70:**

**72/77:**

**80:**

**84/86:**

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## Phonetic Alphabet

**A:**

**B:**

**C:**

**D:**

**E:**

**F:**

**G:**

**H:**

**I:**

**J:**

**K:**

**L:**

**M:**

**N:**

**O:**

**P:**

**Q:**

**R:**

**S:**

**T:**

**U:**

**V:**

**W:**

**X:**

**Y:**

**Z:**

On the morning of your course, your instructor will request to see this document, so please complete it, print, and bring with you on the course.

If you have any difficulties, then please call us.

Many thanks,

*iPowerboat Team*

