

## **VESSEL INSPECTION BULLETIN 03-10**

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

During the latest revision of the Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual, Appendix K (Minimum Small Boat Communication and Navigation Equipment) has been revised changing long range communication equipment carriage requirements.

### **2. DISCUSSION:**

Vessels operating beyond VHF-FM communication range (approx 20 nautical miles) are now permitted to carry Satellite Phones for use in emergency communications. The use of a satellite phone differs from traditional long range communications in the fact that a party has to answer for information to be transferred. Traditional Single Side Band (SSB) radios allow the distressed party to broadcast in the clear for any vessel to hear. The satellite phone seriously limits the listening audience.

### **3. ACTION:**

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains 13 Rescue Coordination Centers (RCC) that are manned 24/7 365 days a year. All vessels utilizing satellite phones shall have the requisite RCC phone number(s) for their operating area(s) posted on or immediately adjacent to the phone. Vessel crews shall be made aware of this number and emergency instruction lists shall incorporate the use of the satellite phone operating procedures. During emergency drills, all crewmembers must demonstrate proficiency in the use of the phone and the emergency contact numbers.

### **4. SUMMARY:**

Contacting the correct people in an emergency can make the difference between a quick resolution or a long and protracted situation. Crews must train as if it is a real emergency and practice what they have learned. Using a satellite phone will work only if people are familiar with the dialing procedure and know who to contact first.

### **5. REFERENCES:**

- a. [U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Centers \(RCCs\)](#)

# U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs)

## 24 hour Regional Contacts for Emergencies

<i>RCC</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Area of SAR Coordination Responsibility</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
<b>Atlantic Area SAR Coordinator</b>	Commander U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area Portsmouth, Virginia	Overall responsibility for areas covered by RCC Boston, RCC Norfolk, RCC Miami, RSC San Juan, RCC New Orleans and RCC Cleveland plus a portion of the North Atlantic Ocean out to 40 degrees west longitude.	<b>(757)398-6700</b>
<b>RCC Boston</b>	Commander 1st Coast Guard District Boston, Massachusetts	New England down to and including a portion of Northern New Jersey plus U.S. waters of Lake Champlain.	<b>(617)223-8555</b>
<b>RCC Norfolk</b>	Commander 5th Coast Guard District Portsmouth, Virginia	Mid-Atlantic states including the majority of New Jersey down to the North Carolina / South Carolina Border.	<b>(757)398-6231</b>
<b>RCC Miami</b>	Commander 7th Coast Guard District Miami, Florida	Southeast states from the South Carolina / North Carolina border around to the eastern end of the Florida panhandle plus a large portion of the Caribbean Sea.	<b>(305)415-6800</b>
<b>RSC San Juan (Sub-Center of RCC Miami)</b>	Commander Sector San Juan San Juan, Puerto Rico	Southeast portion of the Caribbean Sea	<b>(787)289-2042</b>
<b>RCC New Orleans</b>	Commander 8th Coast Guard District New Orleans, Louisiana	Southern states including the Florida panhandle to the U.S. / Mexico border in Texas plus the inland rivers including the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and tributaries.	<b>(504)589-6225</b>
<b>RCC Cleveland</b>	Commander 9th Coast Guard District Cleveland, Ohio	U.S. waters of the Great Lakes, their connecting rivers and tributaries.	<b>(216)902-6117</b>
<b>Pacific SAR Coordinator</b>	Commander U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area Alameda, California	Overall responsibility for areas covered by RCC Alameda, RCC Seattle, RCC Honolulu and RCC Juneau.	<b>(510)437-3700</b>
<b>RCC Alameda</b>	Commander 11th Coast Guard District Alameda, California	California and Eastern Pacific Ocean waters assigned by international convention off the Coast of Mexico.	<b>(510)437-3700</b>
<b>RCC Seattle</b>	Commander 13th Coast Guard District Seattle, Washington	Oregon and Washington	<b>(206)220-7001</b>
<b>RCC Honolulu (operated as JRCC with DOD)</b>	Commander 14th Coast Guard District Honolulu, Hawaii	Hawaii, U.S. Pacific Islands and waters of Central Pacific Ocean assigned by international convention (extending from as far as 6 degrees south to 40 degrees north latitude and as far as 110 west to 130 east longitude).	<b>(808) 535-3333</b>
<b>Sector Guam (coordinates SAR under RCC Honolulu)</b>	Commander Sector Guam	Guam and other U.S. territories and possessions in the far western Pacific Ocean.	<b>(671)355-4824</b>
<b>RCC Juneau</b>	Commander 17th Coast Guard District Juneau, Alaska	Alaska, U.S. waters in North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean	<b>(907)463-2000</b>