

**For further information contact:  
Department of Transport  
Marine Safety Branch**

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## Safety call

The safety warning is used if you need to broadcast an important safety warning. For example, a partly submerged object or an accidentally activated EPIRB.

**Saycure-e-tay, Saycure-e-tay, Saycure-e-tay**

**Hello all stations, Hello all stations,  
Hello all stations**

**This is [Name and call sign if you have one]  
(spoken three times)**

### **Details of the warning / announcement**

VHF Distress, Urgency and Safety calls can be initiated on channel 16, they may be continued on channel 67.

HF Distress, Urgency and Safety calls can be initiated on 4125, 6215 and 8291, they may be continued on these channels or change to channels 2182, 12290 or 16420 if better reception is required.

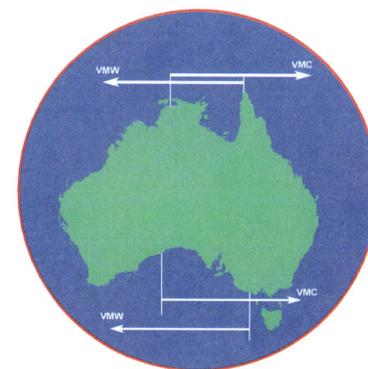
Note: The nature of HF transmission may result in distress or safety calls being answered by any Australian coastal station.

## Weather broadcasts

The Bureau of Meteorology is responsible for the broadcasting of weather on HF radio.

There are two sets of frequencies, one covering the East of Australia (VMC) the other the West (VMW), these are continually broadcasting on a four-hour cycle that means weather for any one area is broadcast six times in any 24-hour period.

VMW	VMC
2056	2201
4149	4426
6230	6507
8113	8176
12362	12365
16528	16546



Transmissions will be on four frequencies simultaneously:

White are day time only (7 am to 6 pm)

Red are night time only (6 pm to 7 am)

Black are 24 hours a day

Refer to Marine Communications diagram on page 46.

## Other ways to access weather information

### VHF broadcasts

Weather is also broadcast over VHF channel 67 by Coast Radio Darwin at 0803 and 1803 each day. This consists of the forecast for Darwin Harbour and surrounding areas plus the Coastal Waters Forecast for Daly River to Cape Don.

### Phone for weather

There are various types of weather information that can be gained over the phone including:

- **1900 955 367** – Coastal forecasts, warnings and observation bulletins
- **1300 659 214** – Non cyclone warnings including coastal waters and wind warnings
- **1300 659 211** – Tropical cyclone warnings and information.

(1300 numbers are equal to the cost of a local call; 1900 numbers have a cost per minute)

### Weather on the web

There is a wide range of weather available on the web which can be checked and printed before going on an outing, including forecasts, warnings and observations.

There is also a wide range of additional information on ways you can access weather.

For current weather warnings and forecasts go to **[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)**

## Marine communications equipment licensing

### VHF

Individual ship licences are not required for VHF radios. Previously, call signs used to be issued as part of the process of licensing VHF. As this is no longer required, radios in a new installation and installations where the licence has expired will not have a call sign. A vessel in this situation is to use the name of the vessel to identify themselves.

Users are still required to hold an operators qualification. The qualification may be a Restricted Radiotelephone Operators Certificate of Proficiency, or a Third Class Commercial Operator's Certificate of Proficiency, or a Marine Radio Operator's Certificate of Proficiency, or a Marine Radio Operator's VHF Certificate of Proficiency.

## HF

HF radios must have an apparatus licence. More information on getting a licence can be found at [www.amc.edu.au](http://www.amc.edu.au)

Users are required to hold an operator's qualification. The qualification may be a Restricted Radiotelephone Operators Certificate of Proficiency, or a Third Class Commercial Operators Certificate of Proficiency, or a Marine Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency.

### Mobile phones and satellite phones

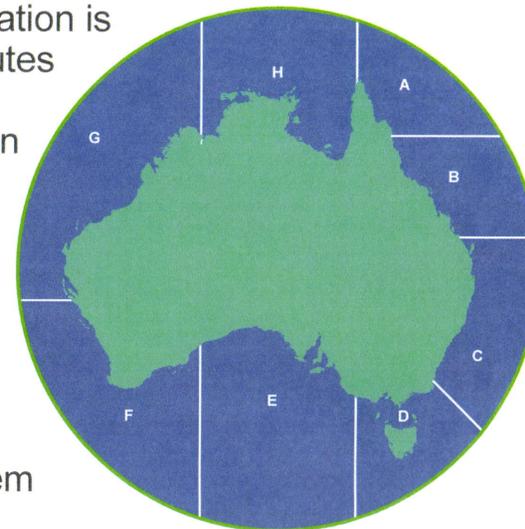
A mobile phone cannot be used as a substitute for the requirement to fit a marine radio. In an emergency situation a marine radio transmission can be heard by other vessels in the vicinity and so provide a greater chance of receiving a quick response.

### Other marine safety information

All marine safety information, excluding weather, is broken down into eight segments around Australia and given a letter from A through to H. These areas are known as the Auscoast Areas or Navarea X.

Marine safety information is broadcast at 55 minutes past the hour, see schedule opposite, on HF radio 8176 kHz.

Each HF station broadcasts the warnings for its adjacent area plus the one either side. A Sat-C system instantly receives them as they are issued.



Station	Primary	Secondary	Area
Adelaide	0325 UTC	0725 UTC	D,E,F
Cairns	2325 UTC	1225 UTC	H,A,B
Darwin	0125 UTC	0925 UTC	G, H, A
Darwin	1055 (local)	1855 (local)	G, H, A
Gladstone	2225 UTC	1125 UTC	A, B, C
Hobart	0525 UTC	-	C, D, E
Melbourne	0225 UTC	2125 UTC	C, D, E
Perth	0625 UTC	1025 UTC	E, F, G
Port Hedland	0425 UTC	0825 UTC	F, G, H
Sydney	0025 UTC	1325 UTC	B, C, D

# TIDAL INFORMATION

## Tidal notes

### Tidal levels

In accordance with modern hydrographic practice, the official tidal predictions and Mean Tidal Planes in the tables are referred to the datum of Lowest Astronomical Tide.

### Tidal heights

The height of the tide in metres and decimals is reckoned from the lowest astronomical tide. When a low water falls below datum, it is marked with a minus sign (-). When reading navigational charts, tidal heights should be added to chart depths unless preceded by a minus sign, then they should be subtracted.

### Meteorological effects on tides

Meteorological conditions, which differ from the average, will cause corresponding differences between the predicted and the actual tide. Variations in tidal heights are mainly caused by strong or prolonged winds and by unusually high or low barometric pressure. Tidal predictions are computed for average barometric pressure.

Low pressure systems tend to raise sea levels and high pressure systems tend to lower them. The water level does not, however, adjust itself immediately to a change of pressure. It responds moreover to the average change in pressure over a considerable area.

The effect of wind on sea level and therefore, on tidal heights and times is variable and depends on the topography of the area in question. In general, it can be said that wind will raise the sea level in the direction towards which it is blowing.

A strong wind blowing straight onshore will “pile up” the water and cause high waters to be higher than predicted. Winds blowing off the land will have the reverse effect.

### Where to get tidal information

Tide tables for the Northern Territory are available on the web, or contact the Marine Safety Branch. Refer to page 4.

### Tide diaries for the Port of Darwin

Tide diaries are available from various fishing tackle shops and boat chandlers. Please contact Darwin Port Corporation on **8922 0660**.