

§ 80.1114

47 CFR Ch. I (10–1–16 Edition)

§ 80.1114 False distress alerts.

The provisions of §§ 80.334 and 80.335 apply to false distress alerts.

[68 FR 46980, Aug. 7, 2003]

§ 80.1115 Transmission of a distress alert by a station not itself in distress.

(a) A station in the mobile or mobile-satellite service which learns that a mobile unit is in distress must initiate and transmit a distress alert relay in any of the following cases:

(1) When the mobile unit in distress is not itself in a position to transmit the distress alert; or

(2) When the master or person responsible for the mobile unit not in distress or the person responsible for the land station determines that further help is necessary.

(b) A station transmitting a distress alert relay in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section or § 80.1121(c) must indicate that it is not itself in distress.

§ 80.1117 Procedure for receipt and acknowledgement of distress alerts.

(a) Normally, distress calls received using digital selective calling are only acknowledged using a DSC acknowledgement by a coast station. Ships should delay any acknowledgement in order to give sufficient time for a coast station to acknowledge the call. In cases where no acknowledgement has been heard and no distress traffic has been heard, the ship should transmit a distress alert relay to the coast station. Upon advice from the Rescue Coordination Center, the ship may transmit a DSC acknowledgement call to stop it from being repeated. Acknowledgement by digital selective calling of receipt of a distress alert in the terrestrial services must comply with ITU-R M.541-9 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 80.7).

(b) Acknowledgement through a satellite of receipt of a distress alert from a ship earth station must be sent immediately (*see* § 80.1119).

(c) Acknowledgement by radiotelephony of receipt of a distress alert from a ship station or a ship earth station must be given in the following form:

- (1) The distress signal MAYDAY;
 - (2) The call sign or other identification of the station sending the distress message, spoken three times;
 - (3) The words THIS IS (or DE spoken as DELTA ECHO in case of language difficulties);
 - (4) The call sign or other identification of the station acknowledging receipt, spoken three times;
 - (5) The word RECEIVED (or RRR spoken as ROMEO ROMEO ROMEO in case of language difficulties);
 - (6) The distress signal MAYDAY.
- (d) The acknowledgement by direct-printing telegraphy of receipt of a distress alert from a ship station must be given in the following form:

- (1) The distress signal MAYDAY;
 - (2) The call sign or other identification of the station sending the distress alert;
 - (3) The word DE;
 - (4) The call sign or other identification of the station acknowledging receipt of the distress alert;
 - (5) The signal RRR;
 - (6) The distress signal MAYDAY.
- (e) The acknowledgement by direct-printing telegraphy of receipt of a distress alert from a ship earth station must be given by the coast earth station receiving the distress alert by retransmitting the ship station identity of the ship transmitting the distress alert.

[57 FR 9065, Mar. 16, 1992, as amended at 68 FR 46980, Aug. 7, 2003; 73 FR 4491, Jan. 25, 2008; 76 FR 67618, Nov. 2, 2011]

§ 80.1119 Receipt and acknowledgement of distress alerts by coast stations and coast earth stations.

(a) Coast stations that receive a distress alert should defer acknowledgement for a short interval so that receipt may be acknowledged by a Rescue Coordination Center. Where an acknowledgement is not forthcoming within 3 minutes, the coast station in receipt of distress alerts must ensure that they are routed to a Rescue Coordination Center as soon as possible. Coast stations must provide assistance for distress communications when requested to do so by the U.S. Coast Guard. (This subpart does not specify any radio watches for coast stations.)