



NETHERLANDS COASTGUARD (JRCC Den Helder)

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Unnecessary alerting of rescue units

Since years the Netherlands Coastguard Centre is confronted with an unchanged high number of false or unintentional distress alerts.

Every alert is treated as a real alert until it is indisputable proven that it involves a false or unintentional alert.

The lifeboats of the Royal Netherlands Sea-Rescue Organization and the helicopters of the Royal Netherlands navy must turn out in vain innumerable times per year.

Every year hundreds of distress alerts are received by the Netherlands Coastguard Centre via DSC, Inmarsat and EPIRB. More than 90% of these alerts are unintentional or false.

In a number of cases, when careless or consciously treatment of the equipment was clearly the reason of an alert, the Netherlands Coastguard Centre will report to the Police. A report will be made and a fine can be imposed.

After reception of a distress alert, it's of the greatest importance for the Netherlands Coastguard Centre to get in contact with the vessel concerned, to obtain more information. When a distress alert is transmitted, be sure that you can be reached by radio or inform the Coastguard Centre on VHF channel 16 in case of an unintentional alert. In that case already alerted rescue units can be called back to their respective stations so that they are ready again in case of real alerts.

PREVENT NEEDLESS ALERTING OF RESCUE BOATS AND HELICOPTERS.

Always go well prepared to sea:

- Take care of updated sea charts
- Be aware that your communications- and navigational equipment work properly
- Allow only authorised persons to operate the radio and EPIRB
- Take care of sufficient distress equipment on board (flares)
- Take care of sufficient live saving appliance on board (raft, lifebelts, lifeline, etc.)
- Do not rely on a mobile phone for distress and safety calls
- Keep your vessel in an update condition
- Take care that there is enough fuel on board
- Listen regularly for weather forecasts and safety messages
- Take care that the right information about your vessel and crew is available by relatives ashore
- Take care that your call sign and MMSI number is displayed in the vicinity of your radio equipment

Newsletter 31E cancelled.

further information can be obtained at:
NETHERLANDS COASTGUARD Den Helder, pr-department. Tel. + 31 (0)223 658333/334
or on our website: www.kustwacht.nl