

- 93 • Weather alerts
 - 94 • Operational signals (such as when a boat is backing out of a slip or approaching a blind bend)
 - 95 • Reports of navigational hazards (such as a partially sunken object in a busy channel)
- Unless you are in a position to help, do not use your radio on a channel being used for an emergency until you hear a Silence Fini (pronounced *see-lawnce feene*) all-clear announcement.
- If you do not hear the Coast Guard reply to an emergency call, and you feel you

Distress Communications Form

Instructions: Complete this form now (except for items 6 through 9) and post near your VHF Radio

Speak *Slowly-Clearly-Calmly*

1. Make sure your VHF radio is on.
2. Select either VHF *Channel 16* (156.8 MHz) or 2182 kHz
3. Press the microphone button and say

MAYDAY —MAYDAY —MAYDAY

4. Say **This is** _____, _____, _____.
(your boat name) (your boat name) (your boat name)

5. Say **MAYDAY:** _____. **Stop** and listen for answer.
(your boat name)

6. *Tell where you are:* _____
 (What navigational aids or landmarks are nearby?)

7. *State the nature of your distress*

8. *State the number of adults and children aboard, and the condition of anyone injured.*

9. *Estimate the present seaworthiness of your boat.*

10. *Briefly describe your boat:*

State Registration Number: _____;

Type of Boat: _____; Length: _____ feet;

Draft: _____ feet; No. of Masts: ____; Hull Color: _____;

Trim Color: _____; Hull Material: _____;

No. Engine(s): _____

(Anything else you think will help rescuers find you)

11. Say: *I will listen on Channel 16/2182.* (cross out number that does not apply)

12. End message by saying: *This is* _____ (boat name), *Over.*

13. Release Microphone button and listen. Someone should answer. If they do not, repeat call, beginning at item 3. If there is still no answer, switch to another channel and begin at item 3 again.

Figure 12-6

Vessel Information Data Sheet

When asking for assistance from the Coast Guard, you may be asked to furnish the following details. Fill out this list as completely as possible; post it alongside your transmitter with the Distress Communication Form.

Identification

Boat Name: _____

State Reg. No. or Documentation No.: _____

2. Description of Vessel Requiring Assistance

Power or Sail: _____; Inboard ___; Outboard ___; I/O ___

Type of boat: (ketch, sloop, trawler, sportfisher, row boat, etc.)

_____. Manufacturer/Class: _____

Length: _____; Draft: _____; Home Port: _____

Hull Markings (color, trim, etc.): _____

3. Survival Gear Aboard

PFDs _____

Flares _____

Flashlight _____

Raft _____

Dingy or Tender _____

Anchor _____

Spotlight _____

Auxiliary Power _____

4. Electronic Equipment

Radio(s) VHF MF HF

Channels/Freq. Available

VHF Channel 22A _____

MF-2670 kHz _____

Radar _____

Depth Finder _____

Direction Finder _____

EPIRB (121.5/243 MHz) _____

EPIRB (156.8/156.75 MHz) _____

EPIRB (406 MHz) _____

5. Vessel Owner/Operator

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ - _____ - _____

Is owner an experienced boater? Yes: _____; No: _____

6. Miscellaneous

Be prepared to describe weather conditions, water depth, etc.

Figure 12-7