

Audible Alert System

Shilshole Prepares

Revision Mar 21, 2016

Background

Shilshole Prepares has a Vessel Mutual Assistance Net (V-MAN) whose purpose is to provide communication for vessel-to-vessel assistance in times of emergency. V-MAN is a directed net with a Net Control Operator (NCO) directing radio traffic. **Anyone present in the marina may trigger the Audible Alert System and serve as the NCO.**

Emergencies are, by definition, non-scheduled events. V-MAN must be able to be launched at any time and by any boater present in the marina.

Most emergencies are going to be known to boaters in the marina just due to the nature of the emergency. In those cases, when an emergency is observed (sirens, ground shaking, etc.) the first person noticing the emergency should, after taking care of their immediate emergency situation, turn on their VHF radio to Marine Channel 71, identify the channel as V-MAN and broadcast their observations, serving as ad-hoc NCO until relieved. However, there may be emergencies that are not known across the marina, and these boaters will have no indication to tune into V-MAN.

Audible Alert System

To address this problem, Shilshole Prepares has developed an **Audible Alert System** as follows:

1. **First boater** aware of a marina-wide emergency sounds five short whistle blasts (horn blasts of approximately ½ second duration) and tune into V-MAN on Channel 71. They become the temporary V-MAN net control operator until relieved.
2. **Anyone hearing** the five short blasts should check in to V-MAN to verify that an emergency Audible Alert is in progress and then sound five short blasts on their horn to help propagate the alert throughout the marina.
3. **Each boater** should repeat the five short blasts every 15 seconds for up to three minutes or until all boaters have checked in on V-MAN or until the V-MAN net control operator terminates the alert on the radio.

Testing the Audible Alert System

There will be a **three-minute** test of the Audible Alert System on the **last Saturday of each month at noon local time** as follows:

Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 12:00 noon: Purpose is to verify our horns are operable and that they can be heard. Text alerts will be sent out hourly at 0900, 1000, 1100 and 1200 with instructions.

Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 12:00 noon: Continue to verify our horns are operable and that they can be heard. Text alerts will be sent out at **0900 and 1200 with instructions.**

Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 12:00 noon: Continue to verify our horns are operable and that they can be heard. Text alerts will be sent out at **0900 with instructions.**

Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 12:00 noon: First Audible Alert System Test without text alerting. When you hear five blasts, tune into V-MAN Marine Channel 71 for instructions.

Revisions to the Audible Alert System

The Audible Alert System protocol and this document will be revised based on our actual experience with the Audible Alert System Tests. The current version will be posted on the blog at www.shilsholeprepares.org.