

ADMIRALTY COMMITTEE

Required Addition to Your Boating Kids' Ditch Kit



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If a boat capsizes, or it otherwise becomes necessary to alert shore personnel or nearby boats for rescue, cell phones are an unreliable means of communication. Cell phones usually don't float and are useless if they get wet. Offshore boaters should also be aware that cell phones quit having any bars about 5-10 miles offshore. Outside that range of shore the only reliable method of two-way communication in an emergency is with a VHF radio. VHF radios can be permanently mounted and powered by the boat's car-sized 12 volt battery, but these are of no use if the boat capsizes or the boater must ditch the boat in an emergency. For all these reasons, every off-shore boater should have in a ditch kit a portable floating VHF.

There is now an option for a whole new level of safety and performance in portable floating VHF's. These new portable VHF's incorporate water-activated emergency strobe lights, GPS receivers which allow the radio to transmit a distress call with the vessel or ditched boater's position or, where the boater has ditched a larger ship for its dinghy or is swimming, to navigate to a waypoint. This is a must-have piece of safety equipment if you or your kids go boating alone offshore.