



What About that Pretty Little Red Button?

All Aux Flotillas are requested to make an effort to reach as many of the boating public as possible on the 3 steps necessary to make their DSC radio functional in an EMERGENCY. Studies have found that less than 10% of the boating public has properly installed their DSC radio; therefore, it might not output an emergency signal when they push that pretty little red button. In that event it will NOT give any information as to whom activated their DSC radio, or, most important of all, **the boat's location**. All the USCG will receive over their radio is a DSC signal with NO INFORMATION.

But how can you tell if boat radio is a DSC radio? Simple. If you see a pretty little red button, it is a DSC radio.

Check with the people you meet, any meeting, during a VE Exam, or at any Public Forum with sailors? Ask a skipper, "Do you have a MMSI Number?"

Do you ask, "Is the radio to connected to the GPS?" The skipper's response or lack of a response will make your next explanation steps clear.

Every chance you get, get the word out- the boating public need to do three things to make their fixed installed, DSC radios work properly anytime, and PARTICULARLY in an emergency (download our handout or send it to the public needing info on the subject):

- Obtain an MMSI Number, from the [BoatUS site](#) or the [SeaTow Site](#).
- [Download the MMSI into your boat's radio.](#) (USCG Instructions)
- Connect your boat's radio to your GPS. ([See the local web page](#))

For an excellent tutorial on these topics please [go to this presentation](#). View the movie, or get more info at our web page.

Go local! Discuss these three steps with every public boater we meet during our activities, e.g., Boat Training and Operations, VE, PE, Public Events, Program Visitors.

Hurry. Let's save some lives. Significantly improve that 10%!