

“Mariner’s Safety Endangered When VHF Radio Distress Alerts by Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Lack Location and Identification Information”

which revealed an alarming fact, that:

- approximately **90% of VHF DSC distress alerts** received by the Coast Guard **do not contain position information**; and
- approximately **60% do not contain a registered identity**.

The Coast Guard further states that it “cannot effectively respond to a DSC distress alert sent from such a radio. As a result, search and rescue efforts may normally be suspended when:

- **no communications with the distressed vessel can be established;**
- **no further information or means of contacting the vessel can be obtained from other sources; and,**
- **no position information is known.”**

Please read the whole article in USCG Special Notices and Alerts section [here](#).

Mariner’s safety at the push of a button

It is obvious, that radio communication means are nearly not enough to fulfil the single most important thing at sea - **mariners safety**! Be it commercial or leisure, safety at sea is the ultimate concern of the captains. They know that crew’s well-being on the sea, or even very life itself, is easily endangered by the elements of nature, equipment failures and human errors as well.

We, within the **BlueTraker team** are fully aware of that, so we have developed an **Assistance Button Module** as part of the **BlueTraker Fleet Tracking and Monitoring solution**.

When man on board call for help in distress situation, they can use the advanced Assistance Button functionality. The Assistance Button module is unique – it will operate even when the vessels own power will go down; not a seldom situation in a distress on the sea. When pressed, the Assistance button will automatically trigger **an alert message, together with vessel’s location and identification data**.

The alert will travel through global Iridium satellite network or through a GSM network, where available, so the mariners can be absolutely sure, the message will reach the destination.

Even more: with Assistance Button, onboard crew has the ability to choose the content of the message it sends and operator at the monitoring centre has precise information about the emergency status.

That way the emergency can be managed efficiently by alerting the SAR organization or execute any other appropriate operation.

There is no need to make a radio call or to read GPS position!



The content of messages is fully programmable and can be tailored to any need of a single vessel or entire fleet!

When Assistance Button is pressed and the emergency message is transmitted, the reporting interval of the BlueTraker mobile terminal automatically shortens, which enable assistance service easier and faster access to the vessel in distress.

The message is also displayed as a pop-up message in **MyBlueTraker** application and sent through the TDS communication server as an **SMS** to specified mobile numbers and as an **e-mail** to specified e-mail addresses.

Another unique **Assistance Button** feature is the **acknowledgement message**, displayed on the assistance button module confirming the vessel in distress their message was received by the security officer or maritime assistance service.