

RESCUE 21



Acquisition
Directorate



FEATURES

- Direction-finding capability that provides search and rescue responders with lines of bearing to vessels in distress
- Digital-selective calling (DSC) support, which allows mariners with DSC-equipped and registered radios to transmit, at the push of a button, their exact GPS position and vital vessel information to the Coast Guard and other DSC-equipped vessels
- Geographic display to help identify hoax callers
- Improved information sharing and coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and federal, state and local first responders
- Enhanced signal clarity, recording and playback capabilities
- Simultaneous monitoring and relaying of information over multiple frequencies
- Automated transmission of urgent marine information broadcasts

For updates on **Rescue 21**, visit the program's website at <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/C4ISR-Programs/Rescue-21/>

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Rescue 21 radio communications system utilizes direction-finding, digital-selective calling and high-quality audio recording and playback to transform the efficiency of Coast Guard search and rescue operations.

The system is designed to provide a line of bearing from the radio tower to the source of any VHF radio call it receives. This direction-finding capability provides the Coast Guard with lines of bearing to boaters who may not be able to provide accurate positions.

Rescue 21's direction-finding capability also helps identify potential hoax radio calls by identifying major discrepancies between callers' reported and actual locations, thus preventing waste and diversion of resources needed for actual emergencies.

The system supports digital-selective calling (DSC), which allows mariners with registered DSC-capable radios to transmit vessel information to the Coast Guard in emergencies. DSC

support and direction-finding capability help the Coast Guard locate and assist distressed vessels more quickly.

Rescue 21 also features high-quality audio and automatically records the transmissions it receives. Watchstanders can instantaneously replay radio calls and refine sound quality with system tools that reduce background noise and amplify voices.

The Coast Guard completed deployment of Rescue 21 in October 2017. The system is now operational along the coasts of the contiguous United States; Hawaii; Puerto Rico; Guam; the U.S. Virgin Islands; the Northern Marianas Islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota; in parts of Alaska; and in much of the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers and their major tributaries. The Rescue 21 Program has transitioned responsibility for the system to the sustainment community.

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Mission execution begins *here*.