

Pan-Pan! Pan-Pan!

A lot of us know what a 'Mayday-Mayday' call is. But what about 'Pan-Pan?' This is no joke. 'PAN PAN' is the approved "urgency signal" that indicates the calling station has a very urgent message to transmit concerning the safety of a ship, aircraft, or a person's safety – but is not immediate danger to life or vessel. This urgency signal has priority over all other communications except distressed traffic (e.g., 'Mayday-Mayday'). 'Pan-Pan' calls may be followed by a distress call, so be alert. Examples where Pan-Pan may be appropriate:

- > Fouled propeller, engine failure in/near shipping channel.
- > Small fire on board - now extinguished.
- > Unsure of position, but not in imminent danger. Need help.
- > Conducting man-overboard recovery maneuvers in crowded shipping channel.
- > Medical assistance needed (not life threatening) now or when ashore.
- > Reporting key navigation aid missing that threatens safe navigation.

Know your marine radio calls and be prepared to use when appropriate or respond. Go to <http://www.powerandmotoryacht.com/boat-electronics/vhf-101/index.aspx> for a brief guide.