

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

General

Thank you for booking a training course with West Solent Sea School! We look forward to welcoming you at our training centre. Please take a few moments to read these joining instructions to ensure that you are prepared and get the most out of your training. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email on info@westsolentseaschool.co.uk or call us on 07813438442.

Previous Experience

We will send you a VHF Radio Handbook once you have completed the Online Booking Form. Please ensure you learn the following sections before the course: Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5. Basic Distress Calls (pages 43-47). The Phonetic Alphabet (page 42). Also please see the Learning Notes at the bottom of this document and try to learn these DSC functions and prowords.

Location

The West Solent Sea School RYA Training Centre is located at Keyhaven Scout Base, in the carpark in Keyhaven village, Hampshire. The postcode is SO41 0TP.



Getting Here

We recommend you drive, using the above postcode in your satnav. If you have alternative travel plans that you need to discuss, please get in touch.

Parking

There is parking available at Keyhaven Amenity Car Park. Tickets are available for £8 for up to 6 hours or £12 for up to 20 hours. There is alternative parking along the road towards Milford-on-Sea, but lift sharing, cycling or a drop off if you're local would probably be preferable.

Timings

Practical courses start at 0900, please arrive promptly to allow the course to start on time. If you are going to be late, please call 07813438442 to let us know. We aim to finish the course by 1630, but there will be an exam for 1-2 hours afterwards depending on numbers.

Food & Refreshments

Lunch is not included as part of the course. You are welcome to bring your own packed lunch and we have a microwave available if you wish to use it. Alternatively, the training centre is a 5 minute drive from Milford-on-Sea where there are some basic shops. Tea & coffee is included, we will have breaks for this during the brief theory parts of your course.

Examination

You will be examined shortly after the course ends. This is conducted by an RYA appointed examiner, and the examination must be paid for separately. Please visit <https://www.rya.org.uk/exams/exam-payment> BEFORE the course, and select 'Marine Radio Short Range certificate'. Pay for your exam, and you will be sent an email. Please ensure the code at the top of the email you are sent is available on the day of the course.

What to Bring

- Pencil and paper
- VHF Radio Handbook
- Packed lunch (the nearest shop is a 5 minute drive down the road in Milford-on-Sea)
- **Photo ID**
- **Passport sized physical photo** – not just on your phone!
- **A printed copy of your Examination Application Form** – this can be obtained by paying for your examination - please see above.
- Comfortable, warm clothing

Learning Notes: DSC Functions and Prowords

You will need to know about which DSC function is relevant to a certain type of situation, which DSC Function to use, and subsequently which Proword to use in a voice call. For more information on this, see the VHF Handbook (page 67-71).

Distress: A distress situation is where a vessel, vehicle, aircraft or person is in grave and imminent danger.

Urgency: An urgency situation is where a vessel, vehicle, aircraft or person is NOT in grave and imminent danger, but they need urgent assistance.

Safety: A safety situation is where a person has important navigational or meteorological information to share. A brief account is normally sent on Channel 16, with the follow up broadcast on a working channel other than Channel 16.

Here are some examples:

Example Situation	DSC Function	Proword
You have hit a rock, have a hole in the boat and are sinking.	Distress	Mayday
You are in a motor boat, in water deep enough to anchor, with no immediate hazards and have engine failure.	Urgency	Pan Pan
You see a large floating log in the area near a harbour entrance that might pose a hazard to other boats.	Safety	Securité
You are very close to another vessel in distress, but they are unable to use their radio to send a DSC Distress or voice call.	None (it is not possible to relay a Mayday for someone else and send a DSC call from your VHF radio - it must be a voice call)	Mayday Relay