How to contact the RFDS via HF Radio in the case of an emergency.

(Non VKS-737 Subscriber)

To contact the Royal Flying Doctor Service in an **emergency** by HF radio you will need a HF transceiver fitted with RFDS frequencies for the area of operations (i.e. Cairns, Derby etc.).

An Emergency Call is when you may need medical assistance from an RFDS Doctor.

Important Notes:

- This service is available to all HF users in cases of genuine emergencies as defined in the Radiocommunications Act No. 174 of 1992.
- The RFDS **Emergency Call** Facility "Red Button" is no longer available at Cairns, Carnarvon, Charleville, Derby, Meekatharra, Mount Isa and Port Hedland. Calls to these bases (using Selcall) are now via VKS-737 Base Stations through a partnership between the VKS-737 Radio Network and RFDS Western Operations and RFDS Queensland Section.
- Calls can be made via the relevant frequencies as detailed on Page 2.
- The first two selcall digits indicate the base station i.e. 92 – Derby, 77 – Cairns etc.
- The last two selcall digits indicate the RFDS base i.e. 11 – Jandakot, 14 – Cairns etc.
- Calls can also be made to the RFDS bases at Broken Hill and Port Augusta using the RFDS Emergency Call Facility as detailed on Page 2, these bases do not have selcall capability.

How to Contact the RFDS via HF Radio using Selcall

1. Select the most suitable frequency for the base you are trying to contact (dependant upon distance & time of day) from the list Page 2.
2. If using a tapped whip antenna ensure that the antenna tap matches the frequency selected on the radio.
   If using an automatic tuning antenna, press the "tune" button on the radio before proceeding.
3. Send a Selcall to the **Beacon Test** of the relevant base as listed on Page 2.
4. If you receive a poor Beacon Revertive (musical tones), or no revertive, try another frequency or another base.
5. If your receive a good Beacon Revertive send a Selcall to the number listed on Page 2 for the RFDS base you wish to contact.
6. If your selcall is successful you will hear 6 short beeps, telephone dial tone, and then the ringing tone of the base being called.
7. An Operator will respond and ask for your Mobile Outpost Licence Callsign and the nature of your emergency.

How to Contact the RFDS via HF Radio Emergency Call Button Facility – Broken Hill and Port Augusta Only

1. Select the most suitable frequency for the base you are trying to contact (dependant upon distance & time of day). If using a tapped whip antenna ensure that the antenna tap matches the frequency selected on the radio. If using an automatic tuning antenna, press the "tune" button on the radio before pressing the emergency call button.
2. Press the "**Emergency Call**" button on your radio for a minimum of 20 seconds. Newer model radios have a timer that allows you to press the button for a few seconds and then let go and the timer will activate for a period of time.
3. Within 2 minutes of pressing the alarm, the base will respond with a tone for 10 seconds
4. If you do not receive a reply try again, if this is also unsuccessful then try another frequency, alternatively try contacting another base.
5. Once you get a response there is no need for further activation of the Emergency Call Button.
6. An Operator will respond and ask for your Mobile Outpost Licence Callsign and the nature of your emergency.

Emergency HF radio contact to RFDS

	Base Station through which call is made. Calls can be made on the frequencies listed below for the individual bases	Beacon Test	To Call Cairns	To Call Charleville	To Call Mount Isa	To Call Jandakot (All WA)	To Call Broken Hill [2]	To Call Port [1] Augusta
VJN	**Cairns** 2020 – 2260 – 5145 – 6965 – 7465kHz	**7799**	**7714**	7715	7716	7711	7712	7717
VJT	**Carnarvon** 2280 – 2656 – 4045 – 5360 – 6890kHz	**7499**	7414	7415	7416	**7411**	7412	7417
VJJ	**Charleville** 2020 – 4980 – 6845 – 6965 – 7465kHz	**8199**	8114	**8115**	8116	8111	8112	8117
VJB	**Derby** 2792 – 5300 – 6945kHz	**9299**	9214	9215	9216	**9211**	9212	9217
VKJ	**Meekatharra** 2280 – 4010 – 5360 – 6825 – 6880kHz	**7599**	7514	7515	7516	**7511**	7512	7517
VJI	**Mount Isa** [3] (temporarily off-air refer below 2020 – 5110 – 6845 – 6965 – 7465kHz	8299	8214	8215	8216	8211	8212	8217
VKL	**Port Hedland** 2280 – 4030 – 5300 – 6960kHz	**7899**	7814	7815	7816	**7811**	7812	7817
VJC	**Broken Hill** 2020 – 4055 – 6920kHz	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	**Emerg Call** [4]	n/a
VNZ	**Port Augusta** 2020 – 4010 – 6890 – 8165kHz	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	**Emerg Call** [4]

Notes:

1. RFDS Port Augusta handles emergencies for South Australia and the Northern Territory south of Tennant Creek. Calls to Port Augusta are dealt with as normal incoming telephone calls for assistance.

2. RFDS Broken Hill handles emergencies for New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Calls to Broken Hill are dealt with as normal incoming telephone calls for assistance.

3. Mount Isa Base is presently off-air due to construction of a new Communications Centre; calls for Mount Isa should be directed through any other available base station.

4. "**Emergency Call Button**" access is only available on Broken Hill and Port Augusta Bases.