



Circular 029:18

Date: 22nd February 2018

Subject: Radio Network Upgrade – Update & Operational Implications

Attention: All Operational Lifeguards

Action: Read important information on radio network changes

Circulars are available at: <http://lifesaving.org.nz/lifesaving/lifesaving-operations-circulars/>

The SLSNR Radio Network has now had all infrastructure upgrades completed and there are some slight changes operational lifeguards should be aware of:

What's changed?

Repeater sites around the region have been changed from analogue equipment to digital to improve reliability, quality of transmissions and prepare the network to be able to make use of developments in radio technology.

Please note: Digital Radio channels will sound different to the analogue channels; it will sound clearer but it also has a unique “digital” sound that may take some getting used to.

What does this mean to operations?

- **A single Surf Rescue frequency across all sites in the Region on mode 1.** Your radios will seek the strongest signal and automatically change between repeaters allowing you to work with neighbouring clubs and support services without having to change channels.
- **No change to mode 3**, line of site channel – this is still an analogue channel and will work in the same way it has in the past.
- **Mode 2 & 4:** These channels will no longer be solely programmed to your neighbouring clubs repeaters so will not be able to be used as rescue network back up or local area channels. Instead, Mode 2 & Mode 4 will be able to be heard across the entire region like a second rescue network channel. This provides Surfcom the capability during ongoing or multiple incidents to ask you to move your operations to one of these other channels. The benefit of this is that Surfcom can still support your operations, you can communicate through repeaters to other clubs and radio traffic on Mode 1 may be minimised. *Please note: if someone is transmitting on Mode 2 and you are on Mode 4 or vice versa you will not hear their transmissions but if you try to broadcast your radio will produce a “busy” tone – Please just try again until their transmission has finished.*

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- **Analogue Radios - These will no longer work on Mode 1, 2 or 4 but will still work on Mode 3, Line of sight and the Marine VHF Channels.** Digital radios are identifiable as all radios with a “D” at the start of their model number – usually found on the front of the radio, or on the back top of a few. *(Some examples of digital radios across the region will be Motorola DP2400’s, DP3400’s, DP3401’s, DP4401’s or DP4400’s)*

Channel Summary:

<u>Mode</u>	<u>Broadcasts to:</u>	<u>Details of Use:</u>
Mode 1 Rescue Network	All SLSNR Beaches on the Rescue Network as well as Rescue Helicopters	Radio Checks, Patrol Reporting and Incident Notification/Management
Mode 2	All SLSNR Beaches on Mode 2	On request from Surfcom during an incident
Mode 3	Line of sight channel	Local operations and beach management communications
Mode 4	All SLSNR Beaches on Mode 4	On request from Surfcom during an incident
Mode 5	Scans Mode 1 and Mode 3, broadcasts on Mode 3	Use to communicate locally whilst still monitoring the Rescue Network
Mode 6	Coastguard & Local Marine VHF Users	Marine VHF Channel
Modes 7-10	Coastguard, Local Marine VHF Users – Club Specific (See full programming sheet)	Channels based on club local area and relevant local Marine VHF Channels
Mode 16	Coastguard, Local Marine VHF Users	Marine Distress Channel

Feedback and Issues on the Radio Network:

In order to ensure any issues with the upgraded network can be quickly identified and addressed all clubs are encouraged to take the opportunity on your next patrol to conduct some radio checks at locations where you may be likely to need to transmit on Mode 1.

Please see this [Radio Network Coverage Evaluation](#) sheet to record the location of the radio checks, quality of transmission and whether this has been improved or not from the analogue network at each location.

Any feedback and the results of these radio checks will be hugely valuable in making sure that the network is dependable and working as it should. All feedback on the Radio Network can be made to Surfcom through Radio, 0800 SAVE LIFE or email the above evaluation directly to the [Lifesaving Manager](#).

Duncan Buchanan
Lifesaving Manager

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