

VKS-737 & HF-Tel

Divisions of the Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc.



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ABN 92 486 729 762

PO Box 2101

Elizabeth Park, SA. 5113

www.vks737.on.net

email: info@vks737.on.net

Telephone: (08) 7325 2600

Facsimile: (08) 8287 1255



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

To contact the Royal Flying Doctor Service in an **emergency** by HF radio you will need a HF transceiver fitted with either **VKS-737 frequencies** or **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 in cases of genuine emergencies as defined in Section 49(1) of the Radiocommunications Act No. 174 of 1992 to all licensed* HF users holding either a current VKS-737 Licence Authority or ACMA Mobile Outpost Licence. * Refer Note 4.
- 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 VKS-737 Radio Network and RFDS Western Operations and RFDS Queensland Section.
- Calls to the RFDS can be made via ANY VKS-737 Base Station using all VKS-737 frequencies or the relevant **RFDS frequencies** where VKS-737 Base Stations are located at **RFDS sites** – refer to Page 2 for details
- The first two selcall digits indicate the VKS-737 base station i.e. 92 – Derby, 68 – Newcastle etc.
- The last two selcall digits indicate the RFDS base i.e. 11 – Jandakot, 14 – Cairns etc.
- Calls can be made on RFDS frequencies to the RFDS bases at Broken Hill and Port Augusta only using the RFDS Emergency Call Facility. Refer below.

How to Contact the RFDS via HF Radio using Selcall

1. Select the most suitable frequency for the base you are trying to contact (dependent upon distance & time of day). A list of base station frequencies appears on 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 you 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, a telephone dial tone, and then the ringing tone of the base being called.
7. An Operator will respond and ask you for your callsign and the nature of your emergency.

Ensure you give the operator your Name, your VKS-737 or Outpost callsign, your Selcall Number, the Base you are calling through and the VKS-737 or RFDS frequency. This is very important should communications be lost and the operator needs to re-establish contact with you.

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

Direct contact with RFDS Bases at Broken Hill [VJC] and Port Augusta [VNZ] can only be made using the RFDS Emergency Alarm "Red Button" on the following frequencies:

Port Augusta 2020 – 4010 – 6890 – 8165kHz. * Broken Hill is not presently operational.

(Note: Callers must be in possession of a current ACMA Mobile Outpost Licence to operate on these frequencies)

1. Select the most suitable frequency for the base you are trying to contact (dependent 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 you for your Outpost callsign and the nature of your emergency.

Emergency HF radio contact to RFDS using Selcall via VKS-737 Bases

VKS-737 Base Station through which call is to be made. <small>Calls can be made on ALL VKS-737 frequencies plus the RFDS frequencies listed for the individual RFDS bases below</small>	Beacon Test	To Call RFDS Cairns	To Call RFDS Charleville	To Call RFDS Mount Isa	To Call RFDS Jandakot (All WA)	To Call RFDS Broken Hill ²	To Call RFDS Port ² Augusta
Adelaide 1 VKS-737 frequencies only	0699	0614	0615	0616	0611	0612	0617
Adelaide 2 VKS-737 frequencies only	9699	9614	9615	9616	9611	9612	9617
Alice Springs 1 VKS-737 frequencies only	0899	0814	0815	0816	0811	0812	0817
Alice Springs 2 VKS-737 frequencies only	9799	9714	9715	9716	9711	9712	9717
Cairns 1 <VJN> VKS-737 – 2020 – 2260 – 5145 – 6965 – 7465	7799	7714	7715	7716	7711	7712	7717
Cairns 2 VKS-737 frequencies only	8699	8614	8615	8616	8611	8612	8617
Carnarvon <VJT> VKS-737 – 2280 – 4045 – 6890	7499	7414	7415	7416	7411	7412	7417
Charleville <VJJ> VKS-737 – 2020 – 4980 – 6845 – 6965 – 7465	8199	8114	8115	8116	8111	8112	8117
Charters Towers 1 VKS-737 frequencies only	8099	8014	8015	8016	8011	8012	8017
Charters Towers 2 VKS-737 frequencies only	9599	9514	9515	9516	9511	9512	9517
Darwin VKS-737 frequencies only	9499	9414	9415	9416	9411	9412	9417
Derby <VJB> VKS-737 – 2792 – 5300 – 6945	9299	9214	9215	9216	9211	9212	9217
Meekatharra <VKJ> VKS-737 – 2280 – 4010 – 5360 – 6880	7599	7514	7515	7516	7511	7512	7517
Mount Isa <VJI > VKS-737 – 2020 – 5110 – 6845 – 6965 – 7465	8299	8214	8215	8216	8211	8212	8217
Newcastle VKS-737 frequencies only	6899	6814	6815	6816	6811	6812	6817
Perth VKS-737 frequencies only	0599	0514	0515	0516	0511	0512	0517
Port Hedland <VKL> VKS-737 – 2280 – 4030 – 5300 – 6960kHz	7899	7814	7815	7816	7811	7812	7817
St Marys VKS-737 frequencies only	0799	0714	0715	0716	0711	0712	0717
Swan Hill VKS-737 frequencies only	8999	8914	8915	8916	8911	8912	8917

VKS-737 Frequencies

Ch 1	5455kHz	Ch 2	8022kHz	Ch 3	11612kHz	Ch 4	14977kHz	Ch 5	3995kHz	Ch 6	6796kHz	Ch 7	10180kHz
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Notes:

- Emergency** calls to all RFDS Bases can be made via any VKS-737 Base Station using frequencies listed above.
- Calls to RFDS bases are dealt with as normal incoming telephone calls for assistance.
- <VJB>, <VJJ> etc. indicates RFDS callsign of the relevant base station on RFDS frequencies only.
- Callers should be aware that possession of a radio enabled to transmit on RFDS, VKS-737 or other frequencies for which they do not hold a current valid Licence or Licence Authority is an offence under the Radiocommunications Act 1992.**