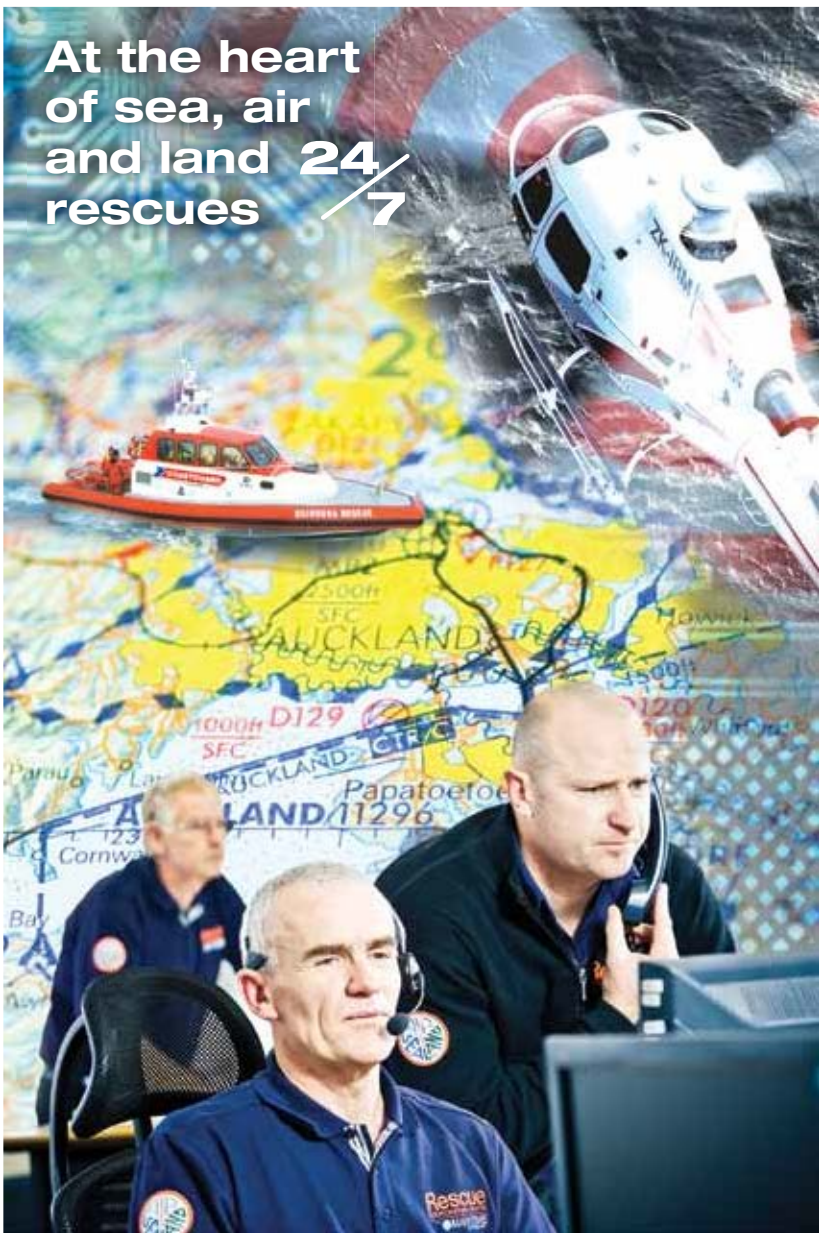


At the heart
of sea, air
and land **24**
rescues **7**



Rescue
COORDINATION CENTRE
 **MARITIME**
NEW ZEALAND

WHAT WE DO

- Coordinate major maritime, aviation and land-based search and rescue operations in New Zealand.
- Provide search and rescue (SAR) services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Respond to approximately 800 SAR incidents each year.
- Cover a 30 million square kilometre search and rescue region (SRR) extending from the mid-Tasman Sea to halfway to Chile, and from the South Pole almost to the Equator.
- Employ a professional team of Search and Rescue Officers (SAROs), who are trained to international SAR standards, and have a wide range of experience in marine, aviation and land search and rescue.

RCCNZ is part of Maritime New Zealand (a Crown entity) and is based in Lower Hutt.





COORDINATING RESCUES, SAVING LIVES

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) is staffed by a team of highly trained and experienced SAROs who provide professional SAR services around the clock. The team can be called upon to coordinate a maritime, aviation and/or distress beacon-related search and rescue mission at any time.

RCCNZ coordinates search and rescue services for all Category I sea, air and land incidents throughout New Zealand's SRR, one of the largest search and rescue regions in the world. Category I incidents are managed by New Zealand Police.

Category II incidents are coordinated at a national level and typically involve missing aircraft or vessels, or people who have activated distress beacons. They can also involve the coordination of international SAR operations involving civil and military resources.

Category I incidents are coordinated at a local level and typically involve land-based search and rescue operations and marine SAR missions, usually within a few miles of the coast.

RCCNZ also provides secondary support services, including:

- determining search areas for Police, Coastguard and other countries' SAR authorities on request
- obtaining medical advice for mariners
- providing maritime assistance services
- monitoring ship security alerting systems
- receiving and relaying marine accident reports
- receiving and relaying aviation accident reports
- alerting responders after receiving reports of marine pollution
- responding to bomb and security alerts on aircraft
- liaising with other agencies about migrants trying to illegally enter New Zealand on vessels
- passing on tsunami alerts to mariners
- issuing of restricted airspace notices in conjunction with Civil Aviation Authority.

A SAR response may start with a distress beacon alert, a telephone call, a radio message, an email, or a request from the Police, Air Traffic Services or a member of the public.

As the information comes in, the team of SAROs at RCCNZ swing into action.

The first steps are to gather and sort the available information, analyse the incident and then plan the response.

The SAROs determine the area to be searched, plan the search strategy and, if necessary, consult with specialist aviation, defence force, marine, Police and land search and rescue advisors. They will then task aircraft, ships, Coastguard or other groups and agencies to carry out the response.

With the search and rescue underway, the SAROs:

- monitor the operation's progress
- update the plans as new information comes to hand
- manage all the activities to get the best possible outcome.

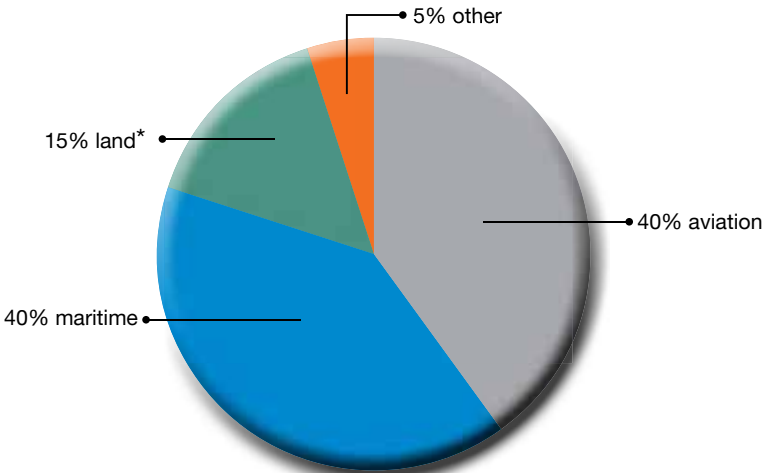
A SAR incident ends only when all the people in distress have been accounted for and all the searchers returned safely home. A search may be suspended if it is agreed that further searching is likely to be futile. In this case, the search may resume if more information comes to light.





FACTS AND FIGURES

RCCNZ deals with approximately 800 incidents per year:



Distress beacons are involved in around 55% of these incidents.

*Trampers, hunters and people who work in isolated areas are increasingly choosing to carry 406MHz distress beacons. As a result, the percentage of beacons being activated in the back country is growing rapidly.

BEING PREPARED

Regardless of what your chosen activity is, your safety and wellbeing depend to a large extent on your preparation and your ability to look after yourself. It is important that you have the right knowledge and equipment.

Carrying the right communications equipment is at the core of being well prepared for an emergency – whether at sea, on land or in the air. If you can't make contact when you are in trouble, then no one will know you need to be rescued.

Always remember, before you head out:

- leave your trip details with a responsible person – including where you are going and when you intend to be back
- check the weather first – if in doubt, don't go out
- make sure you carry appropriate emergency communications.

IF THINGS GO WRONG...

If you are in a life-threatening situation and need to be rescued, activate your distress beacon and leave it turned on until help arrives.

For more on beacons, visit www.beacons.org.nz

SEA

Maritime New Zealand recommends that you:

- **wear a lifejacket at all times**, especially if there's heightened risk – things can go wrong very quickly.
- **be ready to call for help** – carry at least two types of reliable emergency communications that will work when wet – distress beacon (406MHz EPIRB), VHF radio (channel 16), cellphone in a plastic bag (111), red hand-held flares.

AIR

- Squawk 7700 and activate your ELT (emergency locator transmitter).
- Put out a Mayday call on 121.5MHz or any other frequency that may be heard by Air Traffic Services (ATS) or other aircraft.
- Once down contact ATS, or if unable to, activate the 406MHz ELT if it hasn't activated automatically. Leave the ELT on until help arrives.

LAND

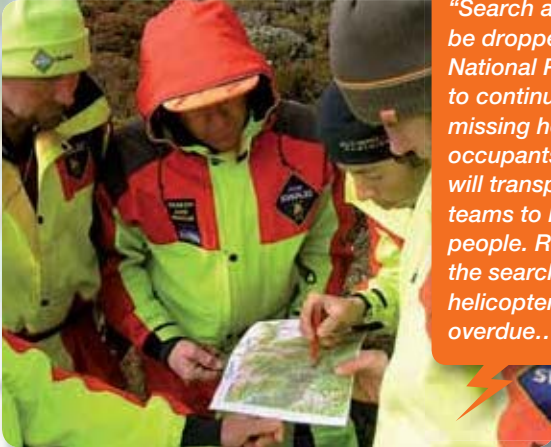
- **Be able to call for help** – the Mountain Safety Council recommends you carry a mountain radio, or distress beacon (406MHz PLB). These can be hired. A cellphone can be useful as back up if there is coverage – remember in New Zealand dial 111 for emergencies.
- **Seek shelter and stay put.**

For more advice on staying safe in the outdoors go to www.adventuresmart.org.nz

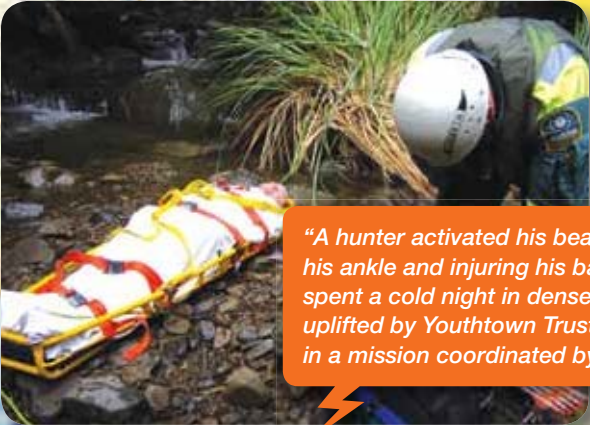
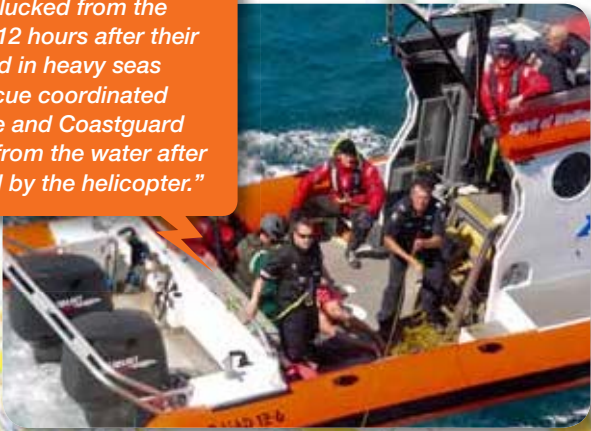


ADVENTURE smart
Get Ready, Get Outdoors

“Search and rescue teams will be dropped into Mt Aspiring National Park this morning to continue the search for a missing helicopter and its two occupants. Three helicopters will transport alpine rescue teams to look for the missing people. RCCNZ launched the search after a training helicopter was reported overdue...”



“Two men were plucked from the water more than 12 hours after their runabout capsized in heavy seas in a dramatic rescue coordinated by RCCNZ. Police and Coastguard uplifted the men from the water after they were sighted by the helicopter.”



“A hunter activated his beacon after breaking his ankle and injuring his back in a fall. He spent a cold night in dense bush before he was uplifted by Youthtown Trust Rescue Helicopter in a mission coordinated by RCCNZ.”



WHY DISTRESS BEACONS SAVE LIVES

New Zealand's rugged landscapes and wild, unpredictable weather mean that people can get into trouble in remote areas very quickly. Each year RCCNZ responds to around 800 incidents, and a distress beacon has been activated in more than half of them. In many cases, the beacon has helped to save lives.

While cellphones are valuable, they cannot always be relied upon. They may be out of range, have limited battery power or become water-damaged.

If you get into trouble, a registered 406MHz distress beacon (PLB or EPIRB) could result in a faster SAR response and save your life, or the life of someone else.

If you buy one, it's vital for your safety that you register it with RCCNZ. This is a FREE service and a legal requirement.

Portable distress beacons can be hired throughout New Zealand.

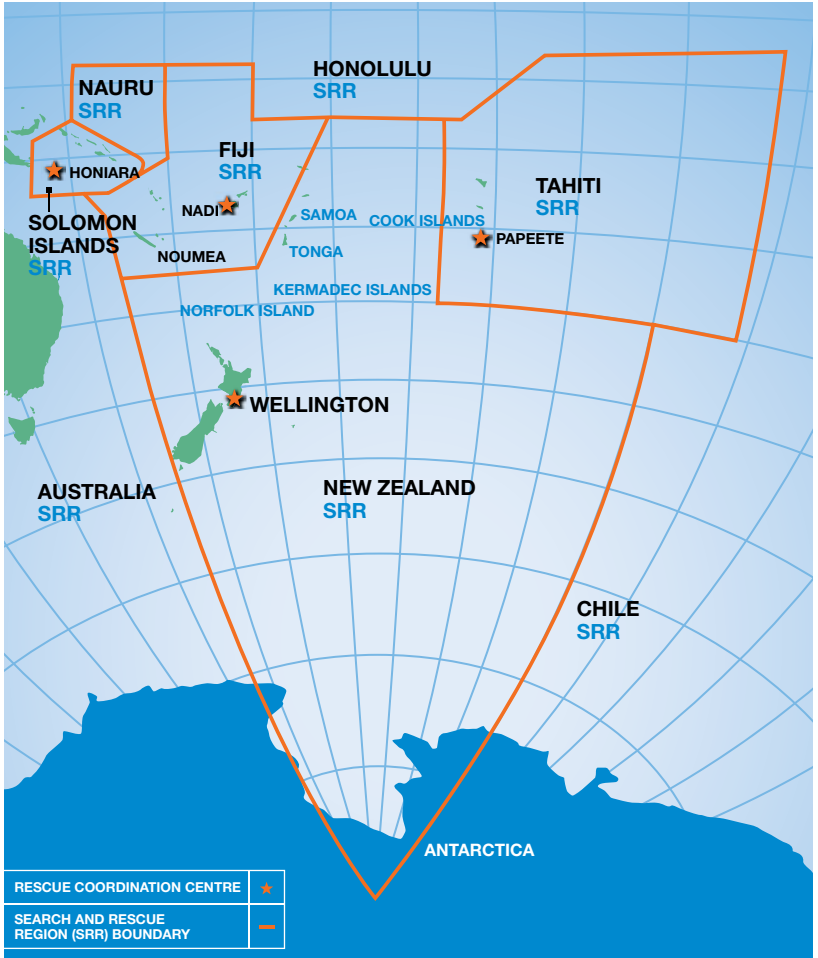
The key points to remember when you obtain a 406MHz distress beacon are:

- register your beacon free with RCCNZ
- keep your contact details up to date
- understand how to use the beacon before you leave home
- check the battery expiry date
- a distress beacon with inbuilt GPS will provide a more accurate position faster to RCCNZ
- do not buy a distress beacon from overseas as it may result in delays to the rescue response.

Important: Distress beacons using the 121.5 and 243MHz frequencies are no longer monitored by satellites. If you still have an old analogue distress beacon, you need to remove the battery then dispose of it carefully.

To safely dispose of your old beacon, or for more information about registration and buying or hiring a 406MHz beacon, visit www.beacons.org.nz

SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION



CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

RCCNZ 24/7 freephone

New Zealand: 0508 472 269 (0508 4 RCCNZ)
International: +64 4 577 8030

Management and administration (office hours)

Phone: (04) 577 8034

Free 406MHz distress beacon registration and enquiries

Web: www.beacons.org.nz/register
Email: 406registry@maritimenz.govt.nz
Freephone: 0508 406 111 or 0800 406 111
International: +64 4 577 8042
Fax: +64 04 577 8041

Accident reporting (for maritime and aviation accidents)

Phone: 0508 222 433
Online reporting (maritime only):
www.maritimenz.govt.nz/report-online
Online reporting (aviation only): www.caa.govt.nz

Useful websites

www.maritimenz.govt.nz

www.beacons.org.nz

www.nzsar.org.nz

www.adventuresmart.org.nz

www.coastguard.co.nz

www.police.govt.nz

www.mountainsafety.org.nz

www.mountainradio.co.nz

www.caa.govt.nz

www.nzlsar.org.nz

www.nzdf.mil.nz



New Zealand Government

