



Acquisition Directorate

RESCUE 21 ALASKA

Mission execution begins here.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Rescue 21 Alaska, the advanced communications system for the Coast Guard's 17th District, will bring expanded marine-band radio coverage and clearer communications to "The Great Land" of Alaska. The system is specifically tailored and designed for the state's unique operating environment. The Coast Guard has identified over 60 critical areas in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, Shelikof Straight, Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutian Chain and Nome, where expanded VHF-FM and UHF communications coverage will be installed.

The design of Rescue 21 Alaska will incorporate commercial communications technologies and be optimized to the unique supportability, weather, environment, habitability, terrain, power and bandwidth issues experienced in the state. Alaska's unique coastline, numerous harbors and inland waterways, and extreme operating environment will limit the ability to operate the Rescue 21 radio direction finding capability at Alaska sites.

One of the most significant improvements will be the Coast Guard's ability to support Digital Selective Calling (DSC), which will be a major component of the Rescue 21 Alaska system. With the push of a single button, a properly installed and registered DSC-equipped, VHF-marine band radio, properly interfaced with GPS, will automatically transmit digital distress calls containing vital vessel information and position data. As Rescue 21 Alaska is deployed, additional guidance on maximizing the capabilities of DSC-equipped radios will be provided. More information on DSC is available at www.uscg.mil/rescue21/benefits.asp.

When completed, this major Coast Guard system will replace the legacy National Distress and Response System. By replacing legacy technology with a fully integrated system, Rescue 21 Alaska enables the Coast Guard to execute all its missions, especially its search and rescue mission, with greater agility and efficiency.



As shown by this remote Alaska tower site, construction season, accessibility for maintenance and repairs, equipment structure and durability are all challenges faced in Rescue 21 Alaska system design and deployment.

FEATURES:

- Supports Digital Selective Calling for registered users whose radios are properly interfaced with GPS
- Enhances clarity, recording and playback of distress radio calls
- Allows simultaneous channel monitoring
- Increases VHF-UHF coverage area within Alaska
- Automates transmission of marine information broadcasts