

Land Use of Marine VHF Radios
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The use of a marine radio VHF on land used to be expressly prohibited except for one specific instance. [47 CFR 80.89 \(e\)](#) says that stations shall not: "Transmit while on board vessels located on land unless authorized under a public coast station license. Vessels in the following situations are not considered to be on land for the purposes of this paragraph:

- (1) Vessels which are aground due to a distress situation;
- (2) Vessels in drydock undergoing repairs; and
- (3) State or local government vessels which are involved in search and rescue operations including related training exercises."

[47 CFR 80.115](#) has been modified by FCC Rule and Order 16-119, dated 30 August 2016, to the use of portable VHF radios from land. It says: "Except for safety purposes, it must only be used to communicate with the ship station with which it is associated or with associated ship units of the same ship station. Such associated ship units may be used from shore only adjacent to the waterway (such as on a dock or beach) where the ship is located. Communications from shore must relate to the operational and business needs of the ship including the transmission of safety information, and must be limited to the minimum practicable transmission time."

Note that you can only communicate with the radio on the ship that the portable radio it is associated with. The power is limited to one watt.