

indicates said present position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal, said time of occurrence of said emergency event and said type of emergency event that has occurred.

24. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising: 5  
emergency signal receiver means, spaced apart from said vessel, for receiving said emergency event signal transmitted by said emergency event transmitter means, for determining said vessel position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency 10  
event signal, said time of occurrence of said emergency event signal and said type of said emergency event that has occurred, and for issuing this information as a vessel distress signal; and  
vessel position alphanumeric display means for receiving the vessel distress signal and for displaying the longitude and latitude coordinates for said present position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal, said time of occurrence of said emergency event and said type of said emergency event. 20

25. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising: emergency signal receiver means, spaced apart from said vessel, for receiving said emergency event signal transmitted by said emergency event transmitter means, for determining said vessel position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal and said time of occurrence of said emergency event signal, and for issuing this information as a vessel distress signal; and 30  
vessel position alphanumeric display means for receiving the vessel distress signal and for displaying the longitude and latitude coordinates for said present position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal and said time of occurrence of said emergency event. 35

26. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said emergency event signal includes a velocity heading output signal that indicates the approximate velocity components of said vessel at the time said emergency event occurs. 40

27. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said emergency event signal includes a velocity heading output signal that indicates the quality of this velocity heading output signal at the time said emergency event occurs. 45

28. The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising vessel position display means, positioned on said vessel, for receiving said emergency event signal, for displaying said present position of said vessel as longitude, latitude and height coordinates of said vessel and for displaying said velocity components of said vessel. 50

29. The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising: emergency signal receiver means, spaced apart from said vessel, for receiving said emergency event 55

signal transmitted by said emergency event transmitter means, for determining said vessel position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal and said time of occurrence of said emergency event signal, and for issuing this information as a vessel distress signal; and

vessel position graphic display means for receiving the vessel distress signal and for graphically displaying a map on a display screen that visually indicates said present position and said velocity components of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal and said time of occurrence of said emergency event.

30. The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising: emergency signal receiver means, spaced apart from said vessel, for receiving said emergency event signal transmitted by said emergency event transmitter means, for determining said vessel position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal and said time of occurrence of said emergency event signal, and for issuing this information as a vessel distress signal; and  
vessel position alphanumeric display means for receiving the vessel distress signal and for displaying the longitude, latitude and height coordinates for said present position of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal and time of occurrence of said emergency event.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said vessel position alphanumeric display means further displays said velocity components of said vessel that has transmitted said emergency event signal.

32. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said type of said emergency event is selected from a class of events consisting of vessel disablement, radio disablement, vessel sinking, vessel capsizing, vessel loss of altitude, fire on board, explosion on board, navigational position loss, person overboard, heart attack, or serious injury occurs on or adjacent to said vessel.

33. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said emergency event transmitter means continues to broadcast said approximate time said emergency event occurred and said present position of said vessel after an initial broadcast is made in response to occurrence of said emergency event.

34. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said emergency event signal is intermittently broadcast on two or more selected frequencies lying in said Emergency Radiowave Bands.

35. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining the date of occurrence of said emergency event and broadcasting this date when said approximate time of said emergency event is broadcast.

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