



# How pagers launch lifeboats along Sweden's coasts

Reference report: The Swedish Sea Rescue Society

Advanced digital pagers from Swissphone are helping to save lives off the coasts of Sweden, following the introduction of a new radio messaging system for lifeboat crews.

Founded in 1907, the Swedish Sea Rescue Society handles some 80 per cent of all rescues in Swedish waters. As a voluntary society which receives no government funding, it is supported entirely by membership fees, donations and fund-raising activities.

Its pagers are used for calling out the lifeboat crews – all of them local volunteers – when an emergency is reported. The call must reach them reliably whether they are in their homes, at their workplaces or out and about. «They have 15 minutes from the alarm to go to the boats», explains Lars Samuelsson, Director of maritime department of at SSRS. «We can have different tone alerts depending on what kind of alarm – they can hear on the pager whether they're in a hurry or not in a hurry.»

## Getting specific information

With the new Swissphone s.QUAD X35 pagers chosen by the society – some 1000 of these are in use – its volunteers can receive, alongside an audible or silent alert, a text message giving brief details or instructions. By allowing them time to prepare themselves, this extra information can be especially helpful for lifeboat crews, who are typically called out less often than the other emergency services.

Lars Samuelsson continues: «When we had the analogue system, it was mostly just the alert signal, and sometimes we heard a voice talking, but most of the time the volunteers did not know what the alarm was about. Now where we have the digital system, when the rescue co-ordination centre sends out the alarm, they can read the text in the display and they can see what the alarm is about – and that's very important for them.»



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