

DISTRESS SIGNALS

Some basic distress signals are as follows:

1. **“SOS”** in Morse Code by any means
2. **a gun or other explosive fired at intervals of about one minute** (tracer bullets can be detected up to six miles, but it is difficult to pinpoint survivor locations)
3. continuous sounding with any **fog signaling** apparatus
4. a **square flag** having above or below it a ball or anything resembling a ball
5. **flames**, e.g., from a burning oil barrel (flames are very effective at night, and have been sighted as far away as 50 miles)
6. **red flares**, which have been sighted up to 35 miles at night, with an average of 10 miles at night and about 1 to 2 miles during daylight
7. **orange smoke**, effective up to 12 miles during the day if winds are less than 10 knots, with an average 8 mile range
8. slowly and repeatedly **raising and lowering arms** outstretched to each side
9. flashes from a **signal mirror**, with an average detection range of five miles, but sometimes detectable up to 45 miles
10. **dye-stained water**, normally green or red, has been sighted up to ten miles away, with an average detectability of three miles