



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua Zartman pulls 10-year-old Nmir Ali Mahmoud toward a Coast Guard boat while rescuing him near Mayport, Fla., Saturday, May 24, 2014. Photo: U.S. Coast Guard

September 2016

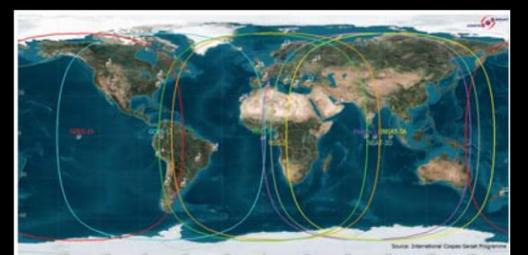


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Saving lives

As an integral part of worldwide search and rescue, NOAA operates the Search And Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System to detect and locate mariners, aviators, and recreational enthusiasts in distress. It has contributed to thousands of rescues in the United States and around the world. The GOES-R series satellites will carry a dedicated SARSAT transponder to detect signals transmitted from emergency beacons on aircraft, maritime vessels, or carried by individuals. The transponder provides constant coverage to immediately receive and relay emergency beacon alerts to a network of ground stations. In turn, this signal is routed to a SARSAT Mission Control Center and then sent to the Rescue Coordination Center nearest the alert, which dispatches a search and rescue team to the location of the distress. The GOES-R series SARSAT transponder will operate with a lower uplink power than the current system, enabling the satellites to detect weaker beacon signals.

Worldwide geostationary satellite SARSAT coverage.



Credit: COSPAS-SARSAT