

SAILOR LEVERAGES IRIDIUM® PHONE FOR RESCUE AT SEA

Etienne Giroire uses his Iridium phone to call for help after capsizing during the Route du Rhum.

“While participating in the 2010 Route du Rhum race, my boat capsized in the North Atlantic Ocean, about 900 miles from the Azores islands, and the Iridium phone was my only communications link to call for help.”

THE CHALLENGE

Veteran sailor Etienne Giroire embarked on The Route du Rhum, a transatlantic singlehanded yacht race between Saint Malo, Brittany, France and Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, France, which takes place every four years in November. Giroire capsized his multihull trimaran on day 14 of the race, requiring quick decisions to ensure his return to safety.

THE SOLUTION

Giroire planned ahead to minimize the danger. After the boat capsized, Giroire was able to locate a “ditch bag” containing survival necessities, including an Iridium 9555 satellite phone, GPS, VHF, and a radar transponder. He was also able to locate plenty of fresh fruit, water bottles, a survival suit, and an inflatable raft.

Using his Iridium phone, Giroire called the Route du Rhum race director, who notified rescue services.

THE IMPACT

Within a few hours of making the call, Giroire was safely rescued by the crew of the CMA-CGM Fort St Georges, a 200-meter long container ship. Once aboard, Giroire was

able to notify his family and friends that he was safe. Giroire returned safely from the race, and Iridium won a lifelong devotee.

“Out at sea, my Iridium 9555 handset is the first thing I turn on to get in touch with the rest of the world, for voice and email. I am a fan for life,” said Giroire. “My Iridium phone worked flawlessly 900 miles out at sea. I wouldn’t sail without it!”



Iridium 9555

Service Provider: Iridium
Enabling Product: Iridium 9555
Enabling Service: Iridium Postpaid & Prepaid Calling