



THE BUSH CLUB INC.

How to Use a Personal Locator Beacon

Things you need to know about the MT410 PLB before you go on your walk.

Preventing Accidental Activation

The signal from a PLB is regarded by authorities as an indication of distress and is given an appropriate response. It is the responsibility of every user of a PLB to ensure that it is not activated unintentionally or in situations that do not justify its use. Most cases of accidental transmission result from poor storage.

The need to treat emergency beacons responsibly cannot be too highly emphasised.

The MT410 will not commence transmitting until approximately 60 seconds after activation, providing a period of audible and visual warning.

If you hear the beacon beeping while it is being carried or stowed, you may still be able to deactivate it during this time period without actually transmitting a distress signal. If in doubt, report the incident to your local authorities just in case.

To minimise the possibility of accidental activation, PLB users are urged to pay careful attention to the following:

1. Educate your travelling companions on how and when to correctly operate your PLB.
2. Avoid stowing the PLB where it will be subjected to continuous direct sunlight. This could cause the beacon's internal temperature to exceed the maximum storage temperature of +70°C. Long term stowage under these conditions could result in reduced battery life, poor performance or degradation of the plastics due to excessive U.V.light.
3. Do not allow children to interfere with the PLB.

Contacts for Reporting Activations

If you suspect that a PLB has been activated inadvertently, you **MUST** turn it off and report it immediately to your National Authority's Rescue Co-ordination Centre to prevent an unnecessary search. When reporting you should include the following:

1. Your PLB's 15 character Unique Identifier Number (UIN), which is marked on the unit body.
2. Date, time and duration of activation.
3. Cause of activation.
4. Location at time of activation.

Search and Rescue authorities will not penalize a PLB owner or operator in cases of genuine accidental activation. Contact number: 1800 641792 (Australia only)

Warning

Emergency Beacons should only be used in situations of grave and imminent danger. It is important that you read this manual thoroughly.



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General

The GME MT410 PLBs are designed for use when the safety of life is endangered and you have no other means of communication. The PLB can save your life and the lives of others by leading a rescue to your precise location. PLBs are an excellent choice to provide added safety while participating in just about any outdoor or remote area activity. The MT410 beacons are fully sealed units and will not sink if dropped into water, making them equally suitable for use on board a boat, or in many other diverse water sport adventures.

Note: PLBs are not a satisfactory substitute for situations which require the specifically designed GME Marine EPIRBs. An EPIRB is designed to float unassisted with the antenna above the water surface to meet Maritime Authority requirements.

Instruction manual 406 MHz PLB

In the past, using the analogue system, (which is obsolete as of February 2009) extensive and lengthy searches have been carried out for missing persons, sometimes to no avail. The PLB is a self-contained 406 MHz digital radio transmitter that emits an internationally-recognized distress signal on a frequency monitored by the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system. The PLB contain a unique identity code which can be cross referenced to a database of registered 406 MHz beacons, allowing the beacon's user to be immediately identified in the event of an emergency. PLBs include a high performance solid state strobe and 121.5 MHz VHF homing signal to assist in leading rescuers to your precise location.

About the COSPAS-SARSAT System

The COSPAS-SARSAT system is a complete global search and rescue service using geostationary and polar orbiting satellites. Many countries provide ground facilities known as Local User Terminals (LUTs). Polar orbiting satellites provide complete, although non-continuous, coverage of the earth (due to fact that these satellites can only view a portion of the earth at any given time) and can accurately resolve an active beacons' location. Additionally, geostationary satellites can give an immediate alerting function in many regions of the world.

About 406 MHz Beacons

406 MHz beacons provide more accurate and reliable alert data to search and rescue agencies than the older 121.5/243 MHz systems presently being phased out. The older 121.5 MHz analogue system required that the satellite be within view of both the beacon and the LUT before it could transmit the beacons' position. This limited the coverage to an area immediately surrounding the LUT. However, the digital nature of the 406 MHz system means that the satellites are able to store the beacons' position and digital message, no matter where in the world it is received. These details are then relayed to the next LUT that comes into range, giving the 406 MHz system true global coverage.

PLBs should only be activated in situations of grave and imminent danger. Deliberate misuse may well result in the unnecessary deployment of valuable Search and Rescue resources and could incur a severe penalty.

Should there be an inadvertent activation it is the responsibility of the user to immediately switch the beacon off and notify the nearest RCC (Rescue Coordination Centre).



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Location and method for deployment

The PLB will deliver best performance where there is a clear view of the sky. Deploying the beacon within an enclosure, particularly one which is electrically conductive such as under a car roof, will reduce the signal strength and may mean that it cannot be detected by rescue satellites or overflying aircraft. If you find yourself in a narrow valley or ravine, you can greatly increase the chances of your beacon signal being detected by placing it on higher ground. Deploy the beacon in an upright position with the wire antenna vertical and well clear of any surrounding obstructions such as trees or rocks. If adverse weather conditions exist, use any available props around the base of the beacon to ensure it will not topple over. Where on-person operation is unavoidable, choose an elevated position that also achieves good local clearance around the vertical wire antenna. Once the beacon has been activated, leave it switched on. A continuous signal is needed for Rescue Authorities to determine your location.

Activating the PLB

1. Hold firmly and release the antenna by pushing the black arm (where marked by a yellow triangle) inwards then upwards. The antenna will quickly uncoil and extend.
2. Swing the antenna fully upwards 180 degrees clockwise, breaking the safety seal. The antenna arm will click into place. The PLB is now active.

The PLB will 'beep' and pulse the inbuilt strobe 20-21 times per minute.

De-activating the PLB

1. Using the key (attached to the lanyard) depress the antenna latch.
2. Swing the antenna fully down 180 degrees anti-clockwise and latch.
3. Re-wrap antenna around the groove on unit back.

The PLB is now turned off and the audio and visual alerts will cease.