

Things you need to know about the KTI SA2G 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.

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 Hex ID, which is marked on the back of 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)

In the event of a beacon being activated, whether accidentally or in the case of a genuine life threatening emergency, it is important that you advise the Bibbulmun Track Foundation office at the earliest opportunity. In addition you should also get in touch with the three emergency contacts that you have supplied on the booking form. If the beacon has been activated the emergency services may have contacted these people, who will be concerned about your welfare.

Warning

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

General

The 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 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. However they are not designed to be used underwater.

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

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.

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).

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 – instructions are also on the unit

1. Slide RED protective cover downwards to access button.
2. Release antenna end-lock by sliding forward and set antenna to vertical position.
3. Press & hold RED Activation button until Green light starts flashing then release button. (Strobe light will also flash)
4. Place in a clear area with antenna in vertical position or place above the ground. I.e. If held by operator (ensure antenna is in the vertical position).
5. Leave beacon operating continuously until rescued.

De-activating the PLB

1. Press blue TEST button until Strobe light stops flashing. The PLB is now turned off and the visual alerts will cease.