

# Emergency Distress Signalling General Info

## Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

### REGISTERING YOUR PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON

All Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) must be registered. If you received a PLB through the Personal Locator Beacon Campaign lead by the coalition (FRC, NL-FHSA, FFAW, and PFHCB) which was launched in 2022, your PLB will already be registered. You will be required to update your Canadian Beacon Registry account should there be any changes in the information linked to your PLB such as how to contact you, who is listed as your emergency contacts, or your vessel and its identifying characteristics. Having accurate information for CBR allows search and rescue services to respond appropriately.

You can reach the Canadian Beacon Registry in several ways:

**Telephone:** 1-877-406-7671

**Email:** [cbr@sarnet.dnd.ca](mailto:cbr@sarnet.dnd.ca)

**Fax:** 1-877-406-3298

**Web:** [cbr-rcb.ca](http://cbr-rcb.ca)

### WHERE TO KEEP YOUR PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON

When you are on the water, your PLB should be kept on your person at all times. A PLB is only useful if you can activate it. Be sure to keep your PLB on you in such a way that you can ensure that if you end up in the water your device will be quickly and easily accessible for you to activate it.



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### ACTIVATING YOUR PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON

**\*\*\*DO NOT ATTEMPT THE STEPS BELOW UNLESS YOU ARE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. In case of accidental activation, please contact the Canadian Beacon Registry (CBR) between 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Eastern time at 1-877-406-7671 or, if it is after hours, the Canadian Mission Control Centre (CMCC) at 1-800-211-8107 or 1-613-965-7265\*\*\***

Activate your PLB following these steps:

- Lift the red hinged cover on top of the device and break the seal.
- Remove the cap and uncoil the antennae.
- Once the antennae is released, press the "ON" button on the front of the device.
- Be sure not to cover the area labelled "GPS ZONE".
- If you have successfully activated your PLB, the PLB will flash continuously.

*A signal will be transmitted to COSPAS-SARSAT satellites to pinpoint your precise location. The battery life offers a minimum of 24 hours of continuous operation.*

- Press and hold the "TEST" button, which will turn off the device.



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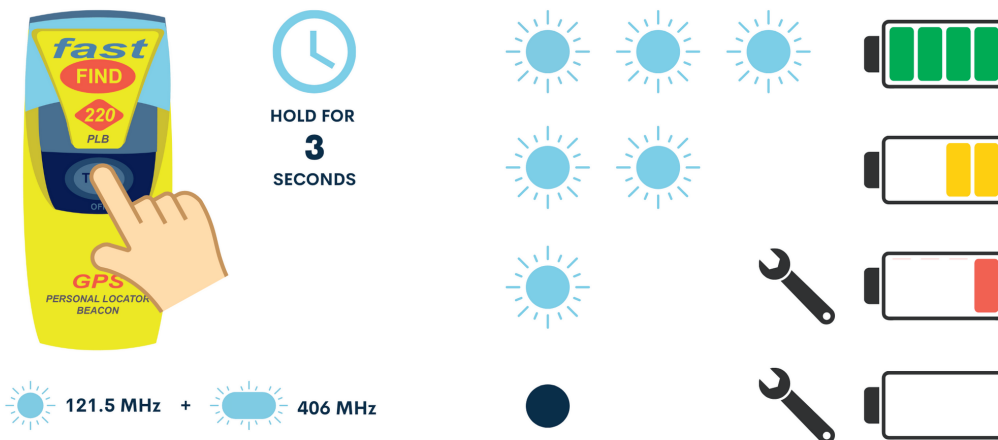
### SELF-TESTING

These self-tests verify all key functions of the PLB including the remaining battery life and transmitter operation.

**\*WARNING: ONLY SELF-TEST IN THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF THE HOUR\***

**NOTE:** The **TEST** button must be pressed hard to activate. If necessary, use a blunt object such as a pencil.

- Press the test button for 3 seconds and release it. The indicator light flashes once after release.
- After a few seconds, there will be one short flash for 121.5 MHz homing signal transmission and one long flash for 406 MHz test signal transmission.
- At the end of the test, there will be a sequence of flashes.
- The PLB will switch off after the test is completed.



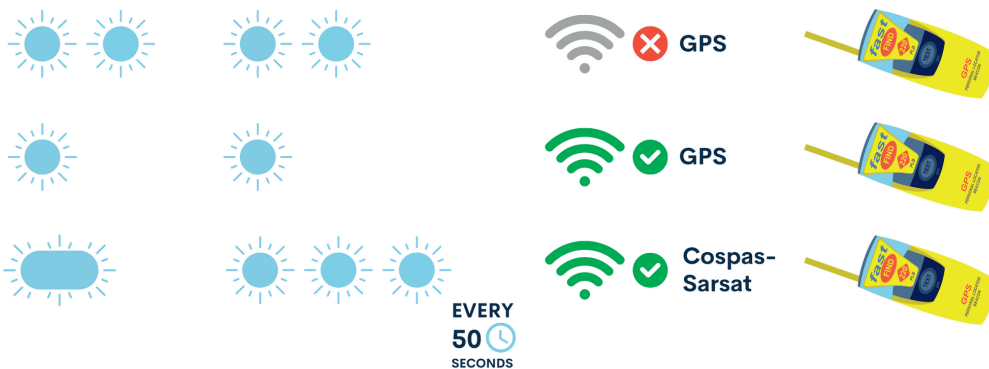
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### FLASHING LIGHT INDICATIONS

As soon as the PLB is activated, the indicator light will start to flash:

- **Two flashes every second** indicates the unit is activated and is attempting to acquire a GNSS position fix.
- **One flash every 3 seconds** indicates that a GNSS position fix has been acquired.
- **A long flash followed by three rapid flashes every 50 seconds** indicates that the PLB has transmitted a distress signal along with the current GNSS position.



While the PLB is active, pressing the **ON** button again will cause the indicator light to flash a Morse code SOS pattern. This can be used to attract attention in low-light conditions. The SOS pattern is repeated four times each time **ON** is pressed.

**NOTE:** To conserve battery life, a maximum of 30 presses is allowed, after which this feature is disabled.

