

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much does it cost to hire one?

\$25 per use for less than 5 days or \$ 50 for 10 Days. A deposit of \$100 is also required. This usually takes the form of a signed manual credit card swipe which is destroyed when the PLB is returned with its seals intact. Cash can also be held until the return of the (PLB). As security a credit card swipe is required, If the PLB is not returned the full cost of \$450 will be charged to your account.

How long can I hire one for?

A maximum of 10 days (at a cost of \$50). These time limits are necessary as we have a limited number of PLBs available and need to use them efficiently and for maximum effect. You are able to hire PBL for longer periods from other agencies.

What if I want to keep it longer?

You will need to contact Namadgi Visitor Centre on 02 62072900 to discuss this and pay for further time.

Does someone check to see if I've returned from my trip?

No. This is why you should also leave details of your trip with someone who knows you and when to expect your return.

How much does it weigh? 250 grams

How do I activate the beacon?

Instructions are provided on the back of the beacon and are also provided in the information sheet you will be given at the time of hire.

What will happen if I set one off?

Geostationary and low-altitude Earth orbiting satellites detect the signals transmitted by the beacon. This information is relayed to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) which is responsible for initiating a search and rescue operation. Staff at Namadgi Visitor Centre will register your details with AMSA in conjunction with the beacon's identification number to assist in any rescue.

When should I set it off?

Only if you are in grave immediate danger or incapacitated (such as a solo walker with a broken ankle). This does not include tiredness or discomfort. Severe penalties apply for deliberate misuse.

What do I do if I set it off accidentally?

Turn the unit off according to the information sheet you will be given. If possible contact Australian Maritime Safety Authority on 1800 641 792.

What should I do if I forget to return it or am unable to get to Namadgi Visitor Centre during opening hours?

Beacons can be returned by registered post to Namadgi Visitor Centre, Parks and Conservation Service, Naas Rd Via Tharwa Act 2620. Please pack it securely with padding. Please advise staff at Namadgi Visitor Centre that you will be doing this on 02 62072900. **It is your responsibility to return PLBs safely.**

Where can I buy one? Many outdoor shops now stock PLBs. Long term hire is also available at <http://www.epirbhire.com.au/longtermhire.htm>