Carrying a PLB, such as the ACR Electronics ResQLink AIS PLB, will maximise survival chances in an emergency at sea

Apr 05, 2023 13:00 BST

406Day Signals Pre-Season Reminder of Life-Saving Benefits of 406 MHz Beacons

ACR Electronics leads 2023 campaign to update and advise boaters, hikers and aviators about the latest 406 MHz PLB, EPIRB and ELT technology

This April 6th, ACR Electronics joins with its brands and partners for the 11th 406Day campaign to raise awareness about life-saving 406 MHz beacon technology.

The annual 406Day message promotes the importance of 406 MHz EPIRBs

(Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon), PLBs (Personal Locator Beacon) and ELTs (Emergency Locator Transmitter), highlighting their vital role as a link to rescue services via the designated Cospas-Sarsat satellite system.

Providing useful advice ahead of the new season, the 406Day guidance includes tips on beacon use and maintenance for all leisure sailors, boaters, watersport enthusiasts and maritime workers, as well as hikers and anyone enjoying activities in remote regions.

PLBs, designed for installation within a life jacket for semi-automatic activation upon inflation, and EPIRBs, carried by a vessel, are activated in an emergency on land or sea, saving more than 50,000 lives worldwide since the mid-1980s by using emergency distress 406 MHz beacon signals and the Cospas-Sarsat system.

Each 406 MHz beacon transmits a unique digital code that identifies the type of beacon and allows registration data to be associated with the device. The registration data provides information such as the beacon owner, the type of vessel and emergency points of contact. All beacon owners should update their beacon registration, check their battery expiration date, and self-test their beacons to make sure they are working perfectly.

In 2023, the awareness drive includes an update on multiple signal technologies added to the next generation beacons.

Mikele D'Arcangelo, Vice President of Global Marketing & Product Management, ACR Electronics, said: "406Day founder ACR and its brand Ocean Signal will once again aim to raise awareness about 406 MHz Emergency Locator Beacons, particularly how to test and register your beacon. Ready for activation in an emergency to instantly access rescue services via the satellite network, these beacons are very easy to use, very affordable and do not require subscriptions. They will provide you and your family with peace of mind - and could end up saving your life. This year, we are also highlighting important new technology advances with the introduction of AIS, Return Link Service and Nearfield Communications (NFC), proving that it is even more essential to have this gear in your backpack, on your boat, or in your ditch bag."

The difference for users selecting the next generation PLBs and EPIRBs is

access to both long and short-range detection technologies in one package in an emergency. The products, including the Miami Innovation Award-winning ACR ResQLink AIS PLB and the DAME Special Mention awarded GlobalFix V5 EPIRB, unite two different key systems for the first time - the global response capabilities of the rescue services via the satellite network and AIS technology to indicate an MOB position to nearby vessels for immediate aid.

The next generation beacons include Galileo Return Link Service, providing the user with confirmation that the international satellite system has received their distress message and location. The ACR Electronics NFC app offers mobile connectivity for the first time, enabling beacon owners to monitor their beacons, review self-test results, view GNSS test locations, and monitor beacon performance and maintenance. The beacons also have visible and infrared signal lights. For SOLAS vessels, the ACR Electronics GlobalFix V5 EPIRB meets updated IMO maritime Safety Committee EPIRB regulations requiring new EPIRBs to be fitted with an internal AIS locating signal.

ACR Electronics offers the following simple advice to beacon owners to ensure their EPIRB, PLB or ELT will operate effectively in the event of an emergency.

- Check the battery expiration date – Each beacon is marked with the Month and Year the battery needs to be replaced.
- Update your beacon registration – Make sure your contact information is correct and your emergency contacts information is accurate to best assist Search and Rescue.
- Double check your beacon registration number matches your beacon – This is especially important if you hand wrote your registration and mailed it in.
- Test your beacon – 406Day is about getting beacon owners to be more comfortable with their beacon, so do a self-test and make sure it’s working perfectly.
- Review the Product Support Manual to make sure you fully know how to use the beacon and where to store it to prevent a false activation.
- Save a Friend – Take a picture with your EPIRB, PLB, or ELT and share it on your social media accounts using the hashtags #406Day #406Day23 and #beaconssavelives and tag some friends that you think might need one.

Ends

Media contacts:

Mikele D'Arcangelo, ACR Electronics

Mikele.Darcangelo@acrartex.com

+1 954-862-2115

or

Jules Riegal, Saltwater Stone

j.riegal@saltwater-stone.com

+44 (0)1202 669244

About ACR Electronics, Inc.

As a world leader in safety and survival technologies for over 65 years, ACR Electronics, Inc. designs and manufactures cutting-edge rescue beacons and survival equipment for the marine, outdoor, aviation and military markets. ACR Electronics marine and outdoor products are engineered to work in all conditions when needed the most and include Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB), Personal Locator Beacons (PLB), Search and Rescue Transponders (SART), VHF, two-way satellite communication devices, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), Man Overboard (MOB), emergency lights, search lights, and other associated safety accessories.

ACR Electronics operates within the ACR Group of companies, which spans a portfolio of brands including Bivy, ARTEX, Ocean Signal, United Moulders Ltd (UML), SKYTRAC Systems, Flight Data Systems, Latitude Technologies, NAL Research, and FreeFlight Systems. ACR Electronics is the foremost development center for emergency beacons that are designed with one purpose: to save lives. For more information go to www.ACRARTEX.com.