

Graduate Student Center Personal Locator Beacon Policy

Acceptable Use

The Graduate Student Center will make one personal locator beacon (PLB) available to graduate students conducting field research in remote areas with limited or no cell phone service. The PLB will also be made available to faculty and staff for use on graduate student field trips.

- The PLB will be checked out only to those engaged in graduate academic pursuits.
- The PLB will be activated only as a last resort, for use when all other means of self-rescue have been exhausted, where the situation is grave and imminent, and the loss of life, limb, or eyesight could occur without assistance.

NOTE: This PLB is not a substitute for proper planning, preparation, and self-knowledge. Carry all necessary gear and supplies appropriate for the area you will be working in and leave a detailed itinerary with a trusted source.

User Responsibilities

- The PLB is to be carried by the user while working in the field.
- When not in use, the PLB is to be kept in a secure location.
- The user is responsible for the replacement or repair of the PLB if lost, stolen, or damaged.
- The PLB is to be returned at the agreed upon time or upon demand.
- Test the PLB only as directed in the MicroFix user guide. This procedure allows for complete testing of the entire unit (electronics, battery, and antenna) without generating a false alarm.
- The user will take great care to prevent accidental activation of the PLB.
- If accidentally activated, the PLB must immediately be shut off. The false alert must be reported as soon as possible to the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at 1-800-851-3051.

NOTE: False alerts that are rectified must be reported to the AFRCC to let them know that the situation has been corrected and everything is fine. Responsibly reporting these events to the AFRCC will not incur a penalty, ***but not notifying the proper authority may incur a severe penalty.***

Misuse of the PLB

Failure to report false alerts or intentional activation of the PLB when the situation does not warrant said activation (see “acceptable use” above) may result in severe penalties, both civil and criminal. ***The user assumes full responsibility for any and all penalties levied as a result of improper use of the PLB.***

Administrative Procedures

Reservations

- The user will complete a reservation request form and submit it to the Graduate Student Center.
- Graduate Student Center staff will review the request for acceptability of use and to determine the availability of the PLB for the time/days requested.
- Graduate Student Center Staff will inform the user of the status of the request.

Check-out

- The user will complete the user agreement and obtain all necessary signatures.
- The original signed agreement will remain in the Graduate Student Center. A copy will be provided to the user and will accompany the PLB off campus.
- The user must present the signed agreement and a valid SRSU ID to any law enforcement or SRSU official if requested to verify authorization for possession of the PLB.

Check-in

- The person returning and the person receiving the PLB will sign the original form. Copies of the signed forms will be provided to the person returning the PLB for his or her records.

Initiating Search and Rescue

- If the PLB is activated, search and rescue personnel will contact Graduate Center staff (either Pamela Pipes or Maritza Martinez) to determine the validity of the activation.
- Graduate Center staff will attempt to contact the individual to whom the PLB was issued. If contact cannot be made, the activation will be assumed legitimate and search and rescue efforts will be initiated.