

Field Trip Safety Equipment

Emergency Personal Locator Beacons

In addition to a general purpose first aid kit NPSNZ owns three Emergency Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) for use on field trips in remote areas.

For NPS purposes a remote area is anywhere where there is no cell phone reception.

These PLBs are individually registered with Rescue Coordination Centre NZ which is a division of Maritime NZ.

When to carry PLBs: In conjunction with the NPS Field Trip Coordinator any member organising a field trip will determine whether or not one or more PLBs will be appropriate for their trip. These PLBs are small and easily carried in a day pack, camera bag or on your belt.

PLB activation is simple: Release the fold down antenna to the upright position to activate. Fold down the antenna to switch off the PLB. Each PLB has a laminated card attached providing full activation/deactivation procedures and how to best position the PLB etc.

When to activate: There can be many instances when a PLB could be activated. However, common sense must prevail and as a rule of thumb, following an accident where you would normally call an ambulance and there is no cell phone reception, activate the PLB.

Once activated PLBs connect directly to emergency services who, after verifying a genuine activation with pre arranged NPS contacts, will despatch the appropriate emergency service to the area concerned.