

## Recreational Boaters...

If you plan to GO OFFSHORE – (Great Lakes, Atlantic, Pacific, and the Gulf of Mexico) – consider taking an **EPIRB and PLB**

It could save your life !!

An **Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)** is used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency. It does this by transmitting a coded message on the 406 MHz distress frequency to a satellite that is then relayed by earth stations to the nearest rescue coordination center within moments of activation. EPIRBs that are equipped with a built-in GPS enables the rescue sources to more accurately identify your position and respond to the emergency.



There are two types of 406 EPIRBs which are activated in different ways. Automatically if your boat sinks (Category 1, float free, automatically activated), or Manually by you (Category II). Once activated in an emergency situation the EPIRB should remain in the 'on' position.

Follow your EPIRB testing procedures carefully and always stow it in its bracket so as to eliminate the transmission of a 'False Alert'.

If you accidentally activate your EPIRB, leave it on until you contact the closest Coast Guard station or call 1-855-406-USCG (8724) to report the accidental activation.

**Personal Location Beacons (PLB)** are another type of 406 MHz emergency signaling device. Usually smaller than an EPIRB, these devices are designed for individual personal use. There are many models available and functions can vary. These are not recommended for maritime use unless they are fully waterproof and can be submerged.

Choose the device that suits your needs and is right for your boating situation. Proper registration of your EPIRB or PLB is essential. This should be done at the time of purchase. You must provide the correct information to: <https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/rgdb/forms/epirb.pdf>

The United States Coast Guard is concerned when mariners vanish offshore and no distress call is received. Equip yourself and your vessel with one or more of the distress alerting devices available. These should also include a VHF-FM radio equipped with a Digital Selective Calling (DSC) function that can be connected to your GPS. If properly registered, when activated, usually by pressing the 'red' distress alerting button, your position, vessel information, and even the nature of the distress will be automatically transmitted to alert Search and Rescue assets.



The National Boating Federation

Visit our web site at [www.n-b-f.org](http://www.n-b-f.org)

