



BEACONS SAVE LIVES

406Day Beacon Awareness Day (#406Day18) aims to raise awareness about life-saving 406 MHz EPIRBs and PLBs

May 31, 2018 12:52 BST

Ocean Signal and ACR Electronics - 406Day: Industry Leaders Join Forces on 406Day to Raise Beacon Awareness with Safety Advice and Beacon Giveaways

4th June 2018 (4/06/2018) = 406Day Beacon Awareness Day #406Day18

As the weather and the boating season warm up, marine safety specialists, industry leaders, charities and ambassadors are joining forces to highlight important safety advice by celebrating 406Day on Monday, 4th June.

Beacon manufacturers Ocean Signal and ACR Electronics, supported by partners including the RNLI, Ocean Safety, British Marine, the RYA, PLB campaigners PLaNB charity and solo ocean rower Lia Ditton, are using the annual day to raise awareness about life-saving 406 MHz technology and to remind boaters about the benefits and responsibilities of owning a PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) or EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon).

Helping people understand how to register, use and test their beacons correctly, 4/06/18 will also be a celebration of the over 41,000 lives saved by using 406 MHz beacons and the COSPAS-SARSAT Satellite system.

EPIRBs and PLBs operate on the 406 MHz frequency. Each 406 MHz beacon transmits a unique digital code that identifies the type of beacon and allows registration data to be associated with the beacon. The registration data provides information such as the beacon owner, the type of vessel and emergency points of contact. Estimates indicate that when using the next-gen MEOSAR (Medium-Earth Orbit Search and Rescue) network, anyone activating a GPS-enabled EPIRB or PLB can expect their beacon to be located within 100 metres (328 feet), 95% of the time, within 5 minutes of the distress signal.

Ocean Safety

[Ocean Safety](#) is marking the occasion by opening its doors from 10:30am to 3.30pm on Monday, 4th June at its Southampton branch to offer visitors a free EPIRB/PLB clinic. Ocean Safety's experts will be on hand to offer free EPIRB checks, assist with battery replacements and tests, fit PLBs to lifejackets, help with registry and to answer any questions about beacon ownership. All year round, visual inspection and test sequence check of all leisure beacons is offered at Ocean Safety's four UK branches.

Ocean Safety is also offering a free Ocean Signal rescueME EPIRB1 giveaway on its [Facebook](#) page where participants can test their knowledge on 406 MHz beacons [here](#).

RNLI

The RNLI is supporting the initiative and using the [Volvo Ocean Race Village](#)

[in Cardiff](#) to reinforce the message about beacon awareness to visitors during the fleet's much-anticipated stop in Wales from 25th May to 10th June. RNLI representatives on the stand on Monday 4th June will be available to answer questions, explain how the lifesaving emergency communications enabled by 406 MHz signals assist search and rescue teams around the world, and demonstrate how to operate and activate a Personal Locator Beacon.

If you visit the RNLI stand at the Volvo Ocean Race on the 4th June and chat with them about the different 'Calling For Help' devices, you could be in with a chance to win a PLB that has kindly been gifted by Ocean Signal.

RYA

406Day partner [RYA](#) is highlighting its own advice and information about beacon use, as well as offering a chance to win an Ocean Signal rescueME EPIRB1 in a 24-hour social media competition. For your chance to win, watch the RYA social media channels Facebook [@RoyalYachtingAssociation](#) and Twitter [@RYA](#) on 4/06/2018. Just like and comment on Facebook and retweet and follow on Twitter to enter.

RYA Cruising Manager Stuart Carruthers said: "Put quite simply an EPIRB could mean the difference between surviving an incident at sea and losing your life. This could be because you are in a communications' 'hole' or because your boat has lost its VHF communications; you don't necessarily need to be hundreds of miles off shore and miles away from other vessels to be thankful of an EPIRB, or PLB."

British Marine

British Marine is supporting 406Day and reminding all boaters about beacon use through its newsletter and [website](#).

PLanB Charity

[PLanB](#) was set up in response to the tragic death of Dom Jackson in a preventable sea kayaking accident. Dom's life could have been saved had he taken basic safety precautions, so PLanB aims to raise awareness of devices such as PLBs. As part of the charity's drive to provide online information and app based services to support safe planning and reporting for people on land

and at sea, PPlanB will be supporting 406Day on its Social Media.

James Hewitt, Sales and Marketing Manager, Ocean Signal, said: “We urge everyone to get involved by using #406Day18 to raise the profile of these important products on 4th June. If you are a beacon owner, please take some time to remind yourself about vital safety checks and procedures. For those whose lives have been touched by the use of an EPIRB or PLB in an emergency, it is the perfect time to thank rescue services.

“EPIRBs, for the vessel, and PLBs, which are registered to a person, are a fast and effective way to send an alert and enable the search and rescue authorities to identify and locate a casualty. However, it is vital that these essential safety devices are properly registered and maintained so that the beacons can be relied upon to function correctly when activated. 406 MHz signals save lives, but it is a technology that requires responsibility.”

Jointly committed to improving the safety of those out in the water, Ocean Signal, its UK distributor Ocean Safety and ACR Electronics offer the following checklist to serve as a reminder to check expiration dates and ensuring correct registry:

- Is your EPIRB registered?
- When was your EPIRB last tested/serviced?
- Is your EPIRB programmed?
- What is the battery life of your EPIRB and when does it need to be replaced?
- Do you know how to self-test your EPIRB to ensure it is working correctly?

Everyone is encouraged to join the conversation and help spread the word about beacon use by adding #406Day18 when posting on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter.

Visit ACR’s [SurvivorClub](#) (*You use it - we replace it program*) and Ocean Signal’s [Rescue Stories](#) to see real life testimonies shared by people of all ages and from all walks of life, who thanks to their beacon, have lived to tell the tale.

For information about the full range of products available from Ocean Signal, please go to www.oceansignal.com, and for ACR Electronics, go to

Social Media Notes

- When sharing messages online regarding 406Day, use #406Day18.
- Celebrate the story of a life saved by a 406Beacon
- If you require images such as: survivor images, logos or product images, please reply to this e-mail with your request.
- Update your Facebook profile picture, using the following instructions:

1) Click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/profilepicframes>

(Or if that doesn't work... Then on Facebook, Click Update Profile Picture on your profile picture. Then click on Add Frame.)

2) Then click on the search bar in the top left, and type 406 Day

3) The top/only one that should show up has the 406 DAY - BEACONS SAVE LIVES banner along the bottom.

4) Select this, then you can choose Use as Profile Picture. You can also select a set an amount of time before it reverts back to your normal profile picture.

Notes for Editors

Register and update your 406 MHz beacon registration

All beacon owners should register their device with the appropriate authorities. UK users of EPIRBS and PLBs should register their details on the UK Beacon Registry at www.gov.uk/406beacon. This free and simple registration will speed up a rescue and provide Search and Rescue with information about you and your vessel which is vital in an emergency. In other countries contact your local authority. Details can be found at www.406registration.com/countriessupported.aspx.

Check your 406 MHz beacon battery expiration dates

Users must check the expiry dates to ensure the EPIRB or PLB will function correctly when required in an emergency. When selecting your beacon, key considerations include the added convenience of user replaceable batteries and the reassurance of a long battery operating life. Ocean Signal leads the industry in these areas of innovation. The SafeSea E100G EPIRB features user replaceable batteries with a five-year replacement interval. The rescueME PLB1, meanwhile, has a seven-year battery life. The rescueME EPIRB1 has even longer battery life at a massive ten years between routine replacements.

Test your 406 MHz beacon

You should test your EPIRB using the 'self-test mode' once a month to monitor the 406 MHz RF power, as well as the 121.5MHz homer RF power, synthesiser lock and battery voltage under load. Ocean Signal also recommends regular inspection to ensure: no obvious signs of damage, including the state of the antenna; secure mounting on the bracket or float free housing; the lanyard is not attached to any structures; the HRU (Hydrostatic Release Unit) in the case of a float free housing is within the specified expiry date; the EPIRB and mounting is cleaned, only using a damp cloth. It is also recommended to carry out routine testing of your PLB to ensure it is in good working order, using the specified 'Test' key. Ocean Signal suggests you do not test the GPS receiver more than once a year as it expends significant amounts of battery energy.

Links to additional 406 Day Promotional Material

For email banners, social media posts, 406 MHz factfile, EPIRBs v PLBs comparison:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bo2zywue89vc79u/AAAYLV7KNRrIL5RR1N7j-KO3a?dl=0>

For product and other images featuring PLBs and EPIRBs:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b4x273zgp7n1u1d/AADkVfLr3vNb_JUYmnM0Fyvra?dl=0

For further information, please contact:

James Hewitt

Ocean Signal

Tel: +44 (0)1843 282930

E-mail: james.hewitt@oceansignal.com

www.oceansignal.com

or

Jules Riegal

Saltwater Stone

Tel: +44(0)1202 669244

E-mail: j.riegal@saltwater-stone.com

www.saltwater-stone.com

About Ocean Signal

Communication and safety at sea specialist Ocean Signal™ is dedicated to providing the technology and quality of product that will set industry standards. Careful design and innovation provides commercial shipping, fishing and recreational users the confidence that their Ocean Signal equipment will work to, and beyond, their expectations when it is needed most. Ocean Signal's rescueME and SafeSea ranges of products provide mariners with simple to use, compact and affordable life-saving solutions. Ocean Signal products are trusted by high-profile sailors, rowers and

powerboat racing teams.

About ACR Electronics, Inc.

ACR Electronics, Inc. designs and manufactures a complete line of safety and survival products. Available products include Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), ARTEX Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs), Search and Rescue Transponders (SARTs), Strobe Lights, Life Jacket Lights, Boat Search Lights, and other associated safety accessories. ACR's facility Quality Management System (QMS) is certified by TUV USA and is certified in accordance with AS9100C / ISO 9001:2008 standards. Additionally, ACR maintains FAA Part 145 Repair Station Certification status. Recognized as the world's leader in safety and survival technologies, ACR has provided safety equipment to the marine, outdoor and aviation industries as well as to various worldwide government agencies since the late 1950's.