



Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System



S A R S A T

False Alerts, Registration and SARSAT Outreach Analysis

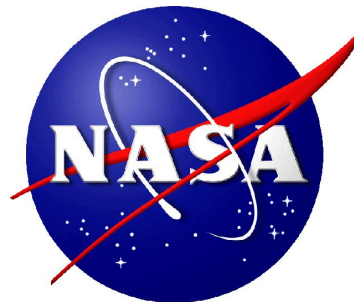


SARSAT Beacon Manufacturers Workshop 2019

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NOAA

SARSAT Operations Officer





Continuing the Push for Awareness

- This is a continuing effort to decrease overall false alerts throughout the SARSAT system
- The launching of MEOSAT has significantly improved COSPAS-SARSAT coverage...and thus significantly increased non-distress alerts that were missed in the past
- Currently, ELT's represent the largest portion of false alerts and non-distress beacons.



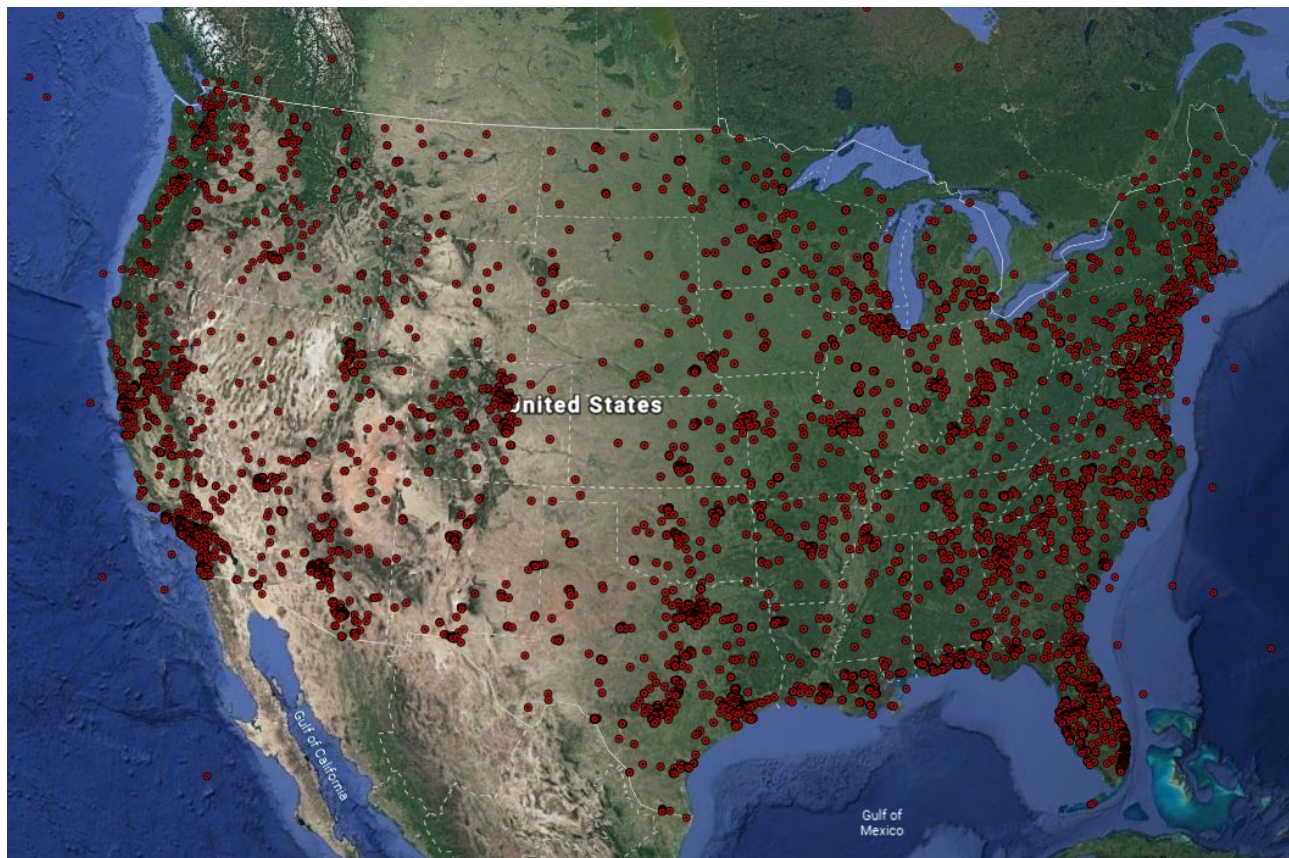


Facts concerning False Alerts

- False Alerts:
 - Challenges limited SAR resources and funds
 - Frustrate SAR personnel
 - Adversely affect SAR personnel's ability to respond to actual distress
 - Erodes confidence in alerts
 - Each activation is treated as a distress by the appropriate RCC until it can be confirmed as “distress” or “non-distress.”
 - The USMCC detected **8,150 ELT** non-distress activations in 2018
 - 143** of ELT activations were due to distress (1.7%)
 - The USMCC detected **4,331 EPIRB** non-distress activations in 2018
 - 95** of EPIRB activations were due to distress (2.1%)
 - The USMCC Detected **1453 PLB** non-distress activations in 2018
 - 221** of PLB activations were due to distress (15.2%)



CONUS distribution of False Alerts October 2018 to August 2019



Many False Alerts are located around regional and major airports across the nation

False Alert Rate by Beacon Type vs. Registrations by Beacon Type 2018



		<u>2018 /Trend</u>
ELTs		
% of Total Non Distress alerts		58% ↑
% of Total Beacons Registered that are ELTs		18.2% ↑
EPIRBs		
% of Total Non Distress alerts		31% ↓
% of Total Beacons Registered that are EPIRBs		40.4% ↓
PLBs		
% of Total Non Distress alerts		10% ↑
% of Total Beacons Registered that are PLBs		41.2% ↑

Overall Non-Distress Activation Difference 2017-2018



ELTs

2017:	7285	
2018:	8150	+12%



EPIRBs

2017:	4521	
2018:	4331	-4%



PLBs

2017:	1529	
2018:	1453	-5%





Aviation Team of Experts (ATE)

Inspired by the 2008 EPIRB initiative of CAPT. L.T. Yarborough USCG(RET)

- Chartered by LT Nate Gillman (NOAA)
- Have had six meetings since May 2018
- Includes Government and Industry partners
- Primary goal is to increase awareness and collaborate to decrease the number of false alerts along with improving registration of ELTs.

Action Items for the past year

- Created Posters and Flyers for distribution to the public
- Continued to work with manufacturers to realize new avenues for awareness
- Continued working with the FAA to update regulations concerning beacons
- Align information across the spectrum to ensure an accurate explanation of the COSPAS-SARSAT system
- Media outreach online, in print and at events



Reasons for ELT False Alerts

- Improper testing due to confusion or ambiguity in the instructions of ELTs
- Inadequate understanding of the regulations concerning ELT requirements and testing
- Lack of cohesion in the Code of Federal Regulations concerning ELT's and 406MHz Beacons (14 CFR 91.207 / 47 CFR 87.199)
- Lack of awareness of 406MHz ELT testing requirements and risks
- Improper disposal of ELT's
- Invalid or missing registration information



Outreach Events 2018/19

- EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh WI
- Miami Boat Show
- Beacon Manufacturers Workshop
- Social Media outreach with #406day
- Media interaction via interviews and articles
- Aviation Team of Experts
- AOPA Fly-in




Importance of Registration

Register online at beaconregistration.noaa.gov

- Digital data transmitted by beacon provides nationality and type of beacon and aids in tracking.
- Emergency contact information and home port are listed in registration
- Tail number and identifying information can be added to registration
- Registration can include information about the owner/operator, specifics on aircraft or vessel, capability of the beacon and/or medical concerns of the owner. This information allows for a more coordinated, timely and prepared search and rescue response by SAR authorities.
- Often, false alerts are resolved prior to dispatching limited search and rescue resources, protecting those valuable resources for actual cases, saving tax dollars, and protecting search and rescue crews.

Home

 SEARCH AND RESCUE
SATELLITE AIDED TRACKING

United States 406 MHz Beacon Registration

Username

Password

Forgot your username or password?

[CREATE LOGIN](#)

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Discussion/Questions?



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