

UN SAR

On September 1, 2017 Yarmouth Zone of CASARA NS was contacted by the Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC) and directed to find and disable an active Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). The EPIRB position was estimated to be in a municipal landfill. Once on location, the section of the landfill where the team was searching was about 70m X 150m. Strong EPIRB signal was available.

The team homing strategy was to use two LL-16 Little L-Per homers at right angles to establish triangulation and determine rough position of the EPIRB. Body masking technique using a handheld radio was also performed. Initial search volume was about 9 square metres of dense and compressed garbage. An excavator / operator was assigned to the team and the garbage volume was eventually reduced to approximately 6 square metres then to 3 square metres.



Upon discovery of the EPIRB, JRCC was advised of the find and the “Hex Code” on the beacon was confirmed to be the search object. Once back in the vehicle, the team continued to monitor the beacon to ensure it was not transmitting.

However, about one and a half hours after arrival, the Team Leader was contact by the JRCC asking if the EPIRB could still be transmitting. The EPIRB was disassembled and battery (in this case, expiry date of **March 2007**) disconnected to ensure its unserviceability.



An UNSAR is an unnecessary Search and Rescue Alert.

Upon receiving notification of an EPIRB activation, the Search & Rescue (SAR) system and resources go into action. The Canadian SAR system has been activated unnecessarily due to improper disposal of EPIRBs and incorrect registration. Any unwanted or expired EPIRBs should be unregistered and disposed of properly, at the very least, the battery disconnected and removed from the unit.

To verify your beacon is properly registered contact the Canadian Beacon Registry at **1-877-406-7671** or online at: www.canadianbeaconregistry.forces.gc.ca.