

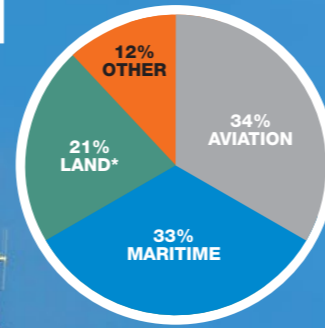


## FACTS AND FIGURES

RCCNZ deals with approximately 850 incidents per year.

Distress beacons are involved in around 75% of these incidents.

\*Trampers, hunters and people who work in isolated areas are increasingly choosing to carry 406MHz distress beacons. As a result, the percentage of beacons being activated in the back country is growing rapidly.



Coastguard New Zealand



Westpac Rescue Helicopter Christchurch

## IF THINGS GO WRONG...

If you are in a life-threatening situation and need to be rescued, activate your distress beacon and leave it turned on until help arrives.

For more on beacons, visit [beacons.org.nz](http://beacons.org.nz)

## SEA

- **Wear a lifejacket** – take the correct-sized lifejacket for each person on board, and wear them.
- **Check the marine weather** – check the latest marine forecast and tides. If in doubt, don't go out.
- **Carry communications** – take at least two types that will work when wet.
- **Avoid alcohol** – it impairs your reaction times, ability to cope if something goes wrong, and survival time if you end up in the water.

## AIR

- **Squawk 7700 and activate your ELT** (emergency locator transmitter).
- **Put out a Mayday call on 121.5MHz** or any other frequency that may be heard by Air Traffic Services (ATS) or other aircraft.
- **Once down, contact ATS**, or if unable to, activate the 406MHz ELT if it hasn't activated automatically. Leave the ELT on until help arrives.

## LAND

- **Be able to call for help** – the Mountain Safety Council recommends you carry a mountain radio and distress beacon (406MHz PLB). These can be hired. A cellphone can be useful as back up if there is coverage – dial 111 for emergencies in New Zealand.
- **Seek shelter and stay put.**

For more advice on staying safe in the outdoors go to [adventuresmart.org.nz](http://adventuresmart.org.nz)

## WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) is part of Maritime New Zealand and is one of the two coordinating agencies for search and rescue (SAR) in New Zealand.

We provide SAR services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, responding to approximately 850 SAR incidents each year, saving lives and rescuing people.

We cover a 30 million square kilometre search and rescue region (SRR), extending from the mid-Tasman Sea to halfway to Chile, and from the South Pole almost to the Equator.

RCCNZ is staffed by a team of highly trained and experienced Search and Rescue Officers (SAROs) and is based in the Hutt Valley.

Our role is to coordinate SAR services at a national level for all aviation and off-shore marine incidents within New Zealand's SRR, and any land-based searches involving distress beacons (Category II). This can involve the mobilisation of a wide number of NZ and international SAR resources.

We also support NZ Police, our partner coordinating agency, who coordinate missions at a local level for all land, marine close-to-shore, inland waterway and subterranean incidents (Category I).

RCCNZ also provides secondary support services, including:

- determining search areas for Police, Coastguard and other countries' SAR authorities on request
- obtaining medical advice for mariners
- providing maritime assistance services
- monitoring ship security alerting systems
- receiving and relaying marine accident reports
- receiving and relaying aviation accident reports
- alerting responders after receiving reports of marine pollution
- responding to bomb and security alerts on aircraft
- liaising with other agencies about migrants trying to illegally enter New Zealand on vessels
- passing on tsunami alerts
- issuing restricted airspace notices in conjunction with the Civil Aviation Authority
- maintaining NZ's distress beacon database

## BEING PREPARED

Regardless of your chosen activity, your safety and wellbeing depend to a large extent on your preparation and your ability to look after yourself. It is important that you have the right knowledge, experience and equipment.

Carrying the right communications equipment is at the core of being well prepared for an emergency – whether at sea, on land or in the air. If you can't make contact when you are in trouble, then no one will know you need to be rescued.

**Always remember, before you head out:**

- leave your trip details with a responsible person – including where you are going and when you intend to be back
- check the weather first – if in doubt, don't go out
- make sure you carry appropriate emergency communications equipment:
  - distress beacon (406MHz EPIRB)
  - VHF radio (channel 16)
  - cellphone in a plastic bag (111)
  - red hand-held flares.





## WHY DISTRESS BEACONS SAVE LIVES

New Zealand's rugged landscapes and unpredictable weather mean that people can get into trouble in remote areas very quickly.

**If you get into trouble, a registered 406MHz distress beacon (PLB, EPIRB or ELT) could result in a faster SAR response and save your life, or the life of someone else.**

While cell phones are valuable, they cannot always be relied upon. They may be out of range, have limited battery power or become water-damaged.

Portable distress beacons can be hired throughout New Zealand. If you buy one, it is vital for your safety that you register it with RCCNZ.

**This is a FREE service and a legal requirement.**

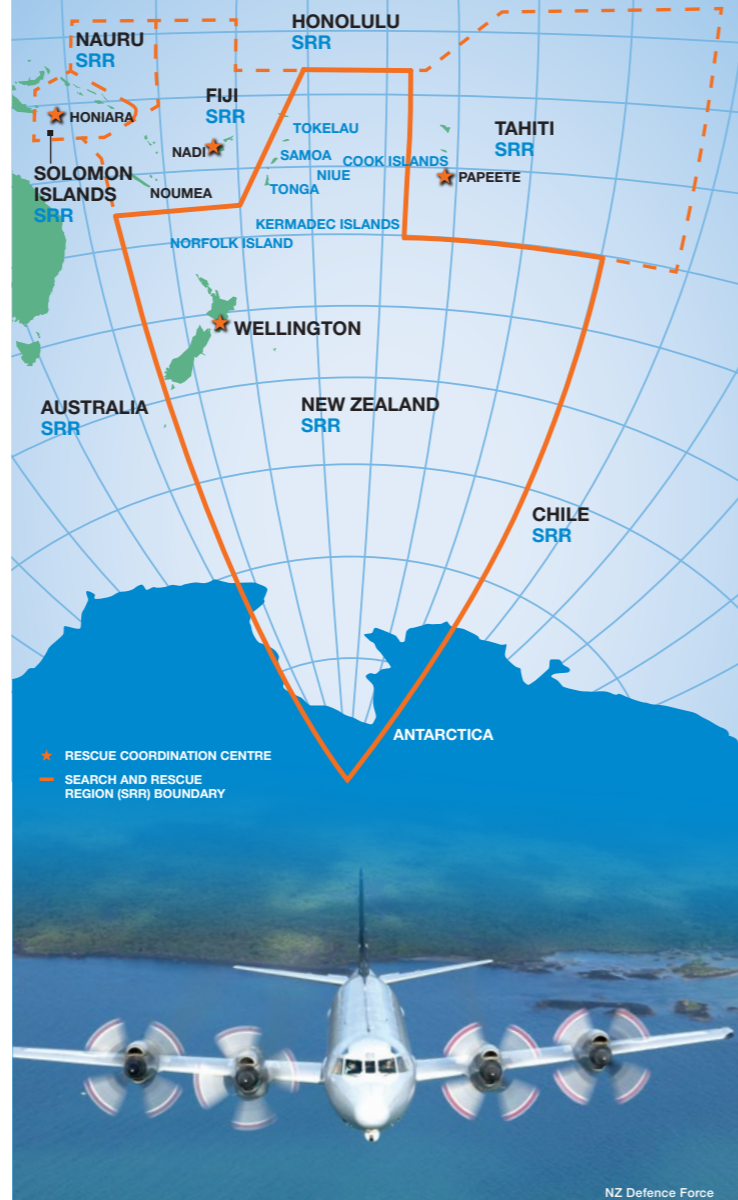
The key points to remember when you obtain a 406MHz distress beacon are:

- register your beacon free with RCCNZ
- keep your contact details up to date
- understand how to use the beacon before you leave home
- check the battery expiry date
- a distress beacon with inbuilt GPS will provide a more accurate position faster to RCCNZ
- do not buy a distress beacon from overseas (unless it is NZ-coded) as it may result in delays to the rescue response.

**IMPORTANT** To safely dispose of your old beacon; or for more information about registration, buying or hiring a 406MHz beacon:

WEB [beacons.org.nz](http://beacons.org.nz)  
 EMAIL [406registry@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:406registry@maritimenz.govt.nz)  
 FREEPHONE 0508 406 111 or 0800 406 111  
 INTERNATIONAL +64 4 577 8042 FAX +64 4 577 8041

## SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION



NZ Defence Force

## CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

RCCNZ 24/7 freephone  
 NEW ZEALAND 0508 472 269 (0508 4 RCCNZ)  
 INTERNATIONAL +64 4 577 8030

RCCNZ postal address  
 PO Box 30050, Lower Hutt, 5040

Management and administration (office hours)  
 PHONE (04) 577 8034

Free 406MHz distress beacon registration and enquiries  
 WEB [beacons.org.nz/registration](http://beacons.org.nz/registration)  
 EMAIL [406registry@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:406registry@maritimenz.govt.nz)  
 FREEPHONE 0508 406 111 or 0800 406 111  
 INTERNATIONAL +64 4 577 8042  
 FAX +64 4 577 8041

Accident reporting (for maritime and aviation accidents)  
 PHONE 0508 222 433

Online reporting (maritime only)  
[maritimenz.govt.nz/report-online](http://maritimenz.govt.nz/report-online)

Online reporting (aviation only)  
[caa.govt.nz](http://caa.govt.nz)

RCCNZ/MNZ 24/7 media service (for enquiries from media only)  
 PHONE (04) 499 7318

### Useful websites

<a href="http://maritimenz.govt.nz">maritimenz.govt.nz</a>	<a href="http://mountainsafety.org.nz">mountainsafety.org.nz</a>
<a href="http://beacons.org.nz">beacons.org.nz</a>	<a href="http://mountainradio.co.nz">mountainradio.co.nz</a>
<a href="http://nzsar.org.nz">nzsar.org.nz</a>	<a href="http://caa.govt.nz">caa.govt.nz</a>
<a href="http://adventuresmart.org.nz">adventuresmart.org.nz</a>	<a href="http://landsar.org.nz">landsar.org.nz</a>
<a href="http://coastguard.co.nz">coastguard.co.nz</a>	<a href="http://nzdf.mil.nz">nzdf.mil.nz</a>
<a href="http://police.govt.nz">police.govt.nz</a>	<a href="http://surflifesaving.org.nz">surflifesaving.org.nz</a>

AT THE HEART  
 OF SEA, AIR AND  
 LAND RESCUES  
**24/7**



**Note:** Distress beacons using the 121.5 and 243MHz frequencies are no longer monitored by satellites. If you still have an old analogue distress beacon, you need to remove the battery then dispose of it carefully.

