



---

## GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF PLBS

---

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR LEADERS

Leaders should ensure that they (or a member of their party) carry a PLB on all higher risk activities, including:

- Activities graded hard, very hard or exploratory,
- Off-track activities
- Multi-day activities
- Those activities with inherent increased risk such as canyoning, abseiling and water-based activities

The Club owns a number of PLBs that are available for the use of members without charge. Contact the Activities Secretary or Equipment Officer if you wish to borrow one of these PLBs. Guidelines for the use of the Club's PLBs are outlined below.

PLBs may also be borrowed from some police stations and NPWS offices.

### GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVATING A PLB

Before using a PLB, consider alternate means of obtaining help for example by phone, walking out or sending a message. It is the leader's decision to activate a PLB and this should be via consensus with other participants.

Consider PLB effectiveness if in difficult terrain. Set off in a more open nearby position?

Prepare for helicopter evacuation:

- Ensure all gear is stowed so that it is not blown away.
- Prepare a written narrative/notes on treatment/observations and extra help required, as appropriate for rescuers
- Arrange means to attract attention and signalling
- Pack essentials eg medications, identification, cards and spare clothes for the injured. The remaining gear will have to be shared and carried out by the party.

Contact next of kin and a committee member as soon as possible.

### GUIDELINES FOR USING A CLUB PLB

The following guidelines are for the benefit of the club members administering the PLB loan system.

These guidelines take into consideration that the expectations of search and rescue is now that a party in remote areas, or exposed to higher than normal risk (ie canyons) will be carrying a PLB. It is advisable for leaders to now include this equipment for trips, particularly in remote areas, or where there is increased risk (such as canyons, possible bad weather, snow, or longer trips). The club PLBs are part of our risk management strategy, and should be available primarily for the use of leaders.

PLB registration is maintained by SBC emergency contact committee members.

SBC emergency contacts are official SBC committee members and have access to the club program and activity bookings.

The PLBs are primarily for club trips

The PLBs may be borrowed for personal trips (such as reconnaissance or exploratory trips not listed on the club program). Borrowers must be financial club members and must communicate their journey intentions and any likely backup routes in writing with SBC emergency contact committee members unless the trip is on the SBC official program

The PLBs are not available for overseas trips – in such cases privately owned PLBs should be used!

The PLBs are generally not available for periods longer than 1 month, and club trips will have priority over private trips

If a member requires a PLB for a period longer than 1 month, they must ensure that:

- No other leader will need the PLB during the period (which can be checked with an email to leaders).
- The trip is of benefit to or involves club members.
- The route plan can be updated if it changes so that the registered owners know where the PLB is (this can be done by email or by SMS).

Requests for loans over 1 month that meet the requirements above must be approved by the committee.