

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-017

MCMURDO PLB

QUESTION:

“How does the antenna deploy from within the McMurdo 406 Personal Locator Beacon?”

AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

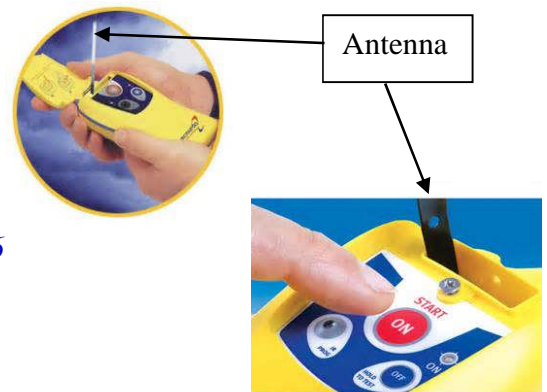
*I was on an OPFAC recently when the crewman was asked to simulate how he would activate the McMurdo PLB in case of emergency. Fortunately he knew how to test the PLB and told us what he would do in case of emergency. What we didn't expect was for him to actually pull the red tab inside the cover. In a split second, three persons on the boat simultaneously yelled . . . **“Don't push the red button!”** The antenna is spring loaded and became fully deployed as soon as the red tab was pulled. There is no way to get the antenna back into the PLB and the unit has to be replaced.*

Every Coxswain and Crew Member must know how to activate the plb in case of emergency. The operating instructions are displayed inside the front cover. The plb is then placed on the life jacket.

If the antenna is deployed, contact your SO-OP for further instructions on replacement of the unit.

The goal is for the Coxswain and the Crew Members to know how to activate the unit in case of emergency.

Warren D. Edman
AQEC/SNC
11/01/2014



From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”