



Government
of Canada

National Search
and Rescue
Secretariat

Gouvernement
du Canada

Secrétariat national
Recherche et
sauvetage

Important Aviation Safety Message!

Distress Signals Changing Effective February 1, 2009

On February 1st 2009, Cospas-Sarsat satellites will no longer hear distress signals from your 121.5 MHz emergency locator transmitters (ELTs). Cospas-Sarsat satellites will only recognize 406 MHz ELT signals.

An ELT is your lifeline to search and rescue (SAR). When activated, your ELT sends a signal to Cospas-Sarsat satellites, which prompts an alert to SAR authorities. The signal can contain information about the location where the distress signal originated.

The 406 MHz ELT offers many life-saving advantages over the 121.5/243 MHz ELT. A 406 MHz ELT is digitally encoded and sends a unique identifier that allows SAR authorities to retrieve essential information about you and your aircraft. It also provides: global coverage, position accuracy within five kilometres, faster alerting time, and a signal power 50 times stronger than the 121.5 MHz.

Remember: 406 MHz ELTs must be registered with the Canadian Beacon Registry of the National SAR Secretariat (CAR 605.38 (4)).

For more information, go to the National Search and Rescue Secretariat website at www.nss.gc.ca or call 1-800-727-9414.

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