



WIRELESS BEACON TRAINING PARK INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

OVERVIEW

Thank you for investing in and maintaining this BCA Wireless Beacon Training Park. By making this commitment, you are supporting the snow safety community in your area and providing an invaluable opportunity for rescue training and practice.

With this training park, users can efficiently practice a variety of scenarios, including single burial searches, multiple burial searches, probing, shoveling, and the use of RECCO® detectors. Every target is equipped with an accelerometer, so the control box will sound an alarm with each probe strike, confirming each successful search.

For the latest on transceiver search, probing, and shoveling techniques, please visit www.backcountryaccess.com/education.

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SYSTEM SETUP

CONTROL BOX MOUNTING

Four mounting points are provided on the underside of the control box. They accept 1/4-20 bolts and are spaced on 2.25 inch [57.2 mm] centers.

A steel lock point is provided on the back of the control box for use with a cable-type lock.

BATTERY INSTALLATION

The Wireless Beacon Training Park uses alkaline type D or LR20 batteries (not included). Alkaline batteries must be used to ensure performance within specifications. The control box uses four batteries, while each transmitter requires six. With a full set of 1 control box and 8 transmitters, the complete system requires 52 batteries.

Control box batteries may be replaced by removing the access door on the control panel using the two thumb screws. Transmitter batteries may be accessed by opening the lid of the transmitter. When installing batteries, ensure they are positioned in the holders to provide good electrical contact.

With normal use, transmitter batteries should last seven months. Depending on use, the batteries in the control box may require more frequent replacement.

TARGET ATTACHMENT

Attach a target to each transmitter using the provided knobs. The antenna axis is indicated by an arrow on the transmitter label. The transmitter may be attached to simulate burial with either a horizontal or vertical transmitter antenna. Target knobs need to be only finger-tight. Do not overtighten.

SYSTEM LAYOUT

The control box should always be located in an accessible location, to encourage users to read the instructions. For example, if the beacon training park is to be installed near a ski slope, the control box should be located uphill from the transmitters.

The maximum range for communication between the control box and transmitters is 60 m with the transmitters buried up to 3 m deep.

SYSTEM CHECKS

Place the control box and all transmitters in their intended locations. Before burying transmitters, confirm correct operation by performing the following procedure for each transmitter:

- Attach a target to the transmitter using a provided knob. Do not overtighten.
- Place the transmitter on the snow surface in the location where it is to be buried.
- Turn the transmitter on using the numbered switch on the control panel. Verify that the LED for that transmitter turns solid green, confirming communication. (If transmitter communication can not be confirmed, ensure the batteries are seated properly and making good electrical contact.)
- Using an avalanche transceiver in search mode, check that the transmitter is operating correctly.
- Tap the target. A beep should be heard from the control panel, confirming a probe strike.
- Turn the transmitter off, using the switch on the control panel. Verify that the LED for that transmitter turns solid red, confirming that the transmitter is turned off.

TRANSMITTER BURIAL

Once the system checks have been performed on each channel, the transmitters are ready to be buried.

OPERATION

SYSTEM STARTUP

To turn the system on, use the master switch marked “ON/OFF” on the control panel. The master switch illuminates red to indicate that the system is on.

The buzzer will beep and all of the channel LEDs will flash red and green to confirm functionality. The channel LEDs will then turn off for a few seconds while the control box wakes up the transmitters. The control box will illuminate the LED for each transmitter as communication is established.

If the LED for a transmitter does not illuminate after several seconds, that transmitter may be out of range, have a depleted battery, or need maintenance.

SEARCHING AND PROBING

To activate a transmitter, move the numbered switch on the control panel to the upward position. Once the corresponding LED turns solid green, the transmitter is active and searching can begin.

When a searcher strikes a target with a probe, the control box will beep and the LED for that channel will flash red and green. The transmitter will continue to transmit until turned off at the control panel.

RECCO® INTEGRATION

Each transmitter box contains a RECCO® reflector to allow training with RECCO® detectors. The reflectors will function whether the transmitter is turned on or off and regardless of battery level.

SYSTEM SHUTDOWN

To deactivate the system, move the master switch to the “OFF” position.

LOW BATTERY INDICATION

When the batteries in the control box reach 20 percent, the master switch will flash. When the batteries in a transmitter reach 20 percent, the light on the control panel corresponding to that transmitter will flash red and green.

AUTOMATIC SHUTDOWN

To preserve battery life, the system is equipped with an automatic shutdown timer. Transmitters will be disabled and the system will turn off after one hour of inactivity. Cycling the master switch or a channel switch resets the shutdown timer.

STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE

At the end of each season, remove the batteries from the control box and transmitters and allow any accumulated moisture to evaporate. Prior to storage, remove the battery access door in the control panel and leave the lids of the transmitters and control box open for 48 hours in a dry environment.