

Group Discussion – Choosing Devices

The following table will help make decisions about selecting personal emergency communication devices. Given the science and technology of devices in a real world, there are no guarantees of performance, only estimates based on knowledge of the device's operation. Cost can be a major factor, especially if it causes NO device to be carried. Choosing a lower cost option may increase the likelihood of the device being purchased and carried.

Property	Cell phone	Iridium phone	Globalstar / SPOT phone	Isatphone	PLB	SPOT	inReach	GMRS Radio	Hybrid or Other
Probability of backcountry rescue	Low	High – with agency number and location	High – with location	Variable – with agency number and location	Highest	High	High	Low	
Cost	Highly Variable: \$50 - \$800/yr	\$1600 + \$500/yr + talk time	\$500 + 300/yr + talk time	\$600 - \$1000 + 500/yr + talk time	\$300 + battery replacement in 5 yrs or after use	\$150 + \$150/yr	\$300 + \$200/yr	Low: \$30-\$100	
Rentals availability	Low	Yes (\$50/week)	Yes	Moderate (\$50/week)	No	??	??	??	
Ease of use	Easy - difficult	Easy - moderate	Very easy for emergency one button	Easy - moderate	Easy	Very easy for emergency one button	Very easy for emergency one button	Easy - moderate	
Registration required?	Usually	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Government or commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial (GEOS)	Commercial	Government (COSPAS / SARSAT)	Commercial (GEOS)	Commercial (GEOS)	Not applicable	
Phone number of rescue agency required?	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	Yes	No	No	No	Not applicable	

References

Web Resources

Emergency locator rescue (government-initiated)

Canadian Beacon Registry: <https://www.cbr-rcb.ca>

COSPAS-SARSAT: <http://www.cospas-sarsat.int/en/>

Emergency locator equipment (manufacturers)

SPOT: <http://www.findmespot.ca/en/>

InReach: <http://www.inreachcanada.com/>

PLB: <http://www.acrartex.com/>

Satellite telephones (manufacturers)

SPOT phone: <http://www.findmespot.ca/en/>

Globalstar: <http://ca.globalstar.com/en/>

Iridium: <http://www.iridium.com>

Emergency locator rescue (civilian-initiated)

Emergency Response Service: <http://www.geosalliance.com/>

Satellite telephones (vendors, rentals)

GPS Central: www.gpscentral.ca

GPS City: www.gpscity.ca

London Drugs: www.londondrugs.com

Mountain Equipment COOP: [_www.mec.ca](http://www.mec.ca)

Roadpost: www.roadpost.ca/

U of C Outdoor Program Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/outdoorcentre/rental>

Emergency phone numbers

ACC: www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/other/phonenumbers.html

ACMG: <http://www.acmg.ca/03public/resources/phonenumbers.asp>