

**GENERAL INFORMATION ON
PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON & SATELLITE MESSENGER DEVICES**

1. TERMINOLOGY/DEFINITIONS:

- a. **PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB) DEVICES:** These devices **only** send emergency location information. They do not provide emergency or non-emergency messaging.
- b. **SATELLITE MESSENGER DEVICES:** Any device that sends (and maybe receives) emergency and/or non-emergency messages is a Satellite Messenger Device.
- c. **SATELLITE S.O.S:** Satellite SOS is simply, albeit a very important, function or mode on Satellite Messenger Devices, PLBs, and more recently smartphones like the iPhone 14, 15.
- d. **GPS:** Most, if not all the devices reviewed in the websites listed below have GPS antennas that provide GPS information. It is a simple matter for software to be provided that can help with navigation BUT navigation drains the battery so having a device with navigation features may not be the best choice. Smartphones are far better for navigation and drain their battery less. Commonly used, wilderness navigation apps for smartphones include: Gaia, Caltopo, and OnX.

2. WEBSITES TO OBTAIN PRODUCT-SPECIFIC DETAILS:

- a. ***The 5 Best Satellite Messengers of 2024: NOTE: The website actually reviews the 10 devices shown on page 2 of this document.***
[https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/topics/camping-and-hiking/best-personal-locator-beacon.](https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/topics/camping-and-hiking/best-personal-locator-beacon)

- b. **GARMIN:**
 - **inReach Messenger Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/garmin-inreach-messenger>
 - **inReach Mini 2 Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/garmin-inreach-mini-2>
 - **GPSMAP 66i Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/garmin-gpsmap-66i>

- c. **ACR Bivy Stick Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/acr-bivy-stick>

- d. **ZOLEO Satellite Communicator Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/zoleo-satellite-communicator>

- e. **Somewear Global Hotspot Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/somewear-global-hotspot>

- f. **Ocean Signal rescueME PLB1 Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/ocean-signal-rescueme-plb1>

- g. **SPOT X Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/spot-x>

- h. **ACR ResQLink View Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/acr-resqlink-view>

- i. **iPhone 14 Review:** <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/reviews/camping-and-hiking/personal-locator-beacon/iphone-emergency-sos>