

Beacon v3 User manual

General Description:

The SecureAlert Beacon is to be used with the SecureAlert “Valentine” offender tracking device. The beacon, when used with the “Valentine” ankle bracelet, will provide additional tracking functionality over the normal offender tracking capability. The beacon is to be mounted in the confinement space, high on a wall and out of normal reach. The beacon device provides a periodic low level wireless signal that can be detected by the Valentine ankle bracelet within the offender's home or place of confinement. When the bracelet cannot detect the beacon signal, the Offender is understood to have left the space.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

Installation Materials Needed:

The beacon must be equipped with fresh batteries when being deployed or re-deployed. It is shipped with two fresh batteries. The life of these batteries will vary. It is expected to be from 9 months to a year. If the beacon batteries need to be replaced, a “replace battery” message will come from the Monitoring Center. A screw driver is needed to remove the two screws that hold the back cover in place. The batteries are mounted inside this cover. Please observe the polarity indications during mounting. It requires two AA batteries.

Nothing else is needed since the beacon is shipped with a 3M “command strip” already applied to the back of beacon so that it will adhere to the wall with this tape.

Installation Instructions

1. The first step is to assign the beacon's ID to a specific location by using the Tracker-Pal PC interface. The beacon ID is displayed on a label mounted on the beacon itself.
2. A "Valentine" offender tracking device will need to have an eArrest rule associated with the beacon ID entered into Tracker-Pal. This rule will require that the offender's bracelet be within the transmission distance of the beacon for the hours of the day as entered into Tracker-Pal. When the "Valentine" offender tracking device "hears" the signal from the beacon, it can uniquely identify the beacon ID. The bracelet will then compare the ID number to its EArrest rules to determine if a rule applies and is satisfied.
3. Mount the beacon in the offender's confinement space. One beacon is normally needed for a typical residence or similar confinement space. More than one beacon can be used with one bracelet to accommodate larger spaces. Find a location that is near the middle of the space such as an interior wall where a thermostat might be mounted. It should be a sturdy wall that is not expected to shake or move easily. The mount location should be as high as practical, near the ceiling so that it would not be accidentally bumped or otherwise molested. Being nearer to a corner will also help to find a more sturdy part of the wall. Avoid mounting the beacon on or near a large sheet metal covering or metal object such as a kitchen appliance. Do not mount the beacon near a microwave oven.
4. When the location has been determined, peel the film off of the 3M command strip that is on the back side and use a ballpoint pen or similar device to move the mechanical switch to the "ON" position. This is accessible through the hole in the back cover.
5. Press the beacon onto the wall to stick it in place. Be sure to have the top edge be on the top side. The front membrane with the "arm" switch should be visible and oriented properly. Endeavour to mount the beacon as vertical as possible. The white 3M adhesive tab should be visible as it extends out from the back of the beacon. This tab is used to remove the beacon without damaging the wall. See "Removing the Beacon."
6. You are ready to "ARM" the beacon. This can be done with or without the bracelet present. Arming the device is what begins the periodic wireless data transmissions. You must ARM the device so that the bracelet will receive the signal as required to avoid an alarm by violating the eArrest rule.
7. Press and hold the "ARM" button in on the front of the beacon for 1 to 2 seconds until the green LED blinks 3 times. Release the button.

8. Observe that, after another one to two seconds more, the green LED will blink three times again. This indicates that the beacon is going through its arming process.
9. For the next 30 seconds, observe that the beacon LED will flash green once every 5 seconds. The data transmissions have begun and if the OTD is present, it will be accompanied by a beep from the bracelet.
10. After this 30 second period, there will be no more blinks or beeps as the beacon continues its periodic transmissions.
11. The beacon is armed. Do not attempt move it! Do not shake the wall where it is mounted! Be sure the bracelet is within this space for the time periods that were specified in the eArrest rules.

Removing an armed Beacon to Change Batteries or to Decommission it

1. Decommission the beacon by removing the eArrest rules associated with that particular Beacon ID using Tracker-Pal. The decommission process should disable the bracelet's ability to report beacon tamper movements.
2. Remove the beacon from the wall by carefully pulling on the adhesive tab that is exposed from the backside of the beacon. This is the 3M Command Strip's way to avoid damaging the wall. Pull on it slowly and steadily along the wall as it "stretches" the adhesive and thereby peeling it from the wall behind the beacon. If you pry the beacon off the wall by pulling it straight away, it will probably damage the wall.
3. Once off the wall, use a ballpoint pen to switch it to the "OFF" position. The back cover should be removed so that the batteries can be replaced. Apply a new 3M command adhesive strip and then it can be redeployed by following the installation instructions above.

Field Testing a Beacon

The beacons can be field tested when a SecureAlert Valentine tracking bracelet is also nearby. To test the beacon:

1. Power up the Valentine offender tracking bracelet so that it will respond to the beacon's test message. Be aware that you will not be able to power the bracelet back down. You can either keep it plugged in after this, let it drain dead, or do this beacon test at the same time you mount the bracelet onto the offender.

2. On the beacon, move the power switch to the ON position through the hole in the back cover.
3. Place the beacon on a horizontal surface like a table or counter top with the back down on the surface. The ARM switch should be visible facing up.
4. Press and hold the ARM button for 1 to 2 seconds until the LED flashes three times and then let go.
5. This procedure will command the beacon to enter a test mode where it will send out three test messages. As each message is transmitted, the LED will blink green. The “Valentine” bracelet that is within range will beep. The beep from the offender tracking bracelet is proof that the wireless transmission was successful.
6. Pick the beacon up from the table and move the switch to the OFF position through the hole in the back cover.
7. The beacon is ready to be deployed in the field. Be sure it has fresh batteries and check to be sure the 3M command adhesive strip is ready to be used. Replace if necessary.

FCC Statement:

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Any changes or modifications could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.