

NEWS

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TROUBLES WITH MARKING FUNCTION OF AVALANCHE TRANSCIEVERS

Security advisory for avalanche transceivers

The marking function of all avalanche transceivers as a solution for multiple burials is limited and cannot always be used reliably. During practical tests by DAV SAFETY RESEARCH a possible safety issue occurred on devices with a mark function. This error occurs when two or more transmitters are arranged in a way that their signals do not overlap (at least 60 m apart). After locating the first transmitter the marking function suppresses the signals of the other transmitter, so they cannot be found. This error is not recognizable to the rescuer. Affected beacon types are "DSP Sport" and "DSP Pro" of the company PIEPS and the "Evo" family ("Evolution +", "Evo 3", "3 Evo +") as well as the "3 Axes" of the company ARVA. The search performance for a single victim, multiple burial scenarios where all victims are within the search area and the transmission mode are not affected by the error.



The company **PIEPS** offers the following possibilities to correct the problem (find further information at www.pieps.com):

1) Getting the firmware-Update v1.5

The firmware-update (version v1.5) is globally available and free of charge at all PIEPS Service Centers and PIEPS competence partners on February, 17th 2014 at the latest. PIEPS Service Centers in Austria and Germany can be found at www.pieps.com under "Dealer". The contact of all other countries can be found under "Contact".

2) Using a special personal method of operation

For all users that don't have the possibility to get the firmware update immediately:

Mark the first transmitter and follow the new strongest signal on the display to the second buried person. If, after marking the first transmitter, no further burial is indicated within the maximum receiving range, reset MARK ("DEMARK" or "SCAN" or "switch SEARCH=>SEND=>SEARCH"). After that, search within the recommended search strip width for further missed persons.



The company **ARVA** recommends the following approach to this situation to be resolved:

If in the search for multiple victims after marking the first signal a 'CE' is indicated on the display and if this 'CE' remains 3sec or longer (means: no further signal inside receiving range), the mark must be cancelled. After that all signals are indicated again, also the one that is already located. For the search for further burials the user must be in control of search strategies to be able to move away from the already found transmitter and to be able to distinguish other transmitters from the first one. Note: With the devices of the "Evo" family and the "3 Axes" only one transmitter can be marked.

Note on the search strip width (in multiple burials):

The marking function of beacons from all manufacturers have limitations, such as: reduced receiving ranges after marking the first signal, an unstable marking function (for example, losing or mixing up already marked transmitters), or a marking that will not be accepted. Nevertheless, the marking function is very helpful in solving multiple burials. To account for these limitations of the marking function, we recommend a maximum strip width of 20m so that further burials cannot be missed.