SPOT GPS Tracker - User Reference Guide

1. Guiding Principles

This document describes how to use and activate the SPOT GPS tracker.

This document should be available for reference in the glovebox of the vehicle being travelled in.

2. Procedure

How SPOT Works

1. GPS satellites provide signals.
2. The SPOT onboard GPS chip, located under the SPOT logo, determines your GPS location and sends your location and preselected message to communication satellites.
3. Communication satellites relay your message to specific satellite antennas around the world.
4. Satellite antennas and a global network route your location and message to the appropriate network.
5. Your location and messages are delivered according to your instructions via email, text message, or emergency notification to the Rescue Coordination Centre who will activate an SOS when this button is pressed.

Getting Started

Before you start, here are a few important things to remember to get maximum reliability from SPOT:

1. **SPOT needs a clear view of the sky to obtain a GPS signal**

   and provide the most accurate location information. It is not reliable indoors or in dense vegetation.
2. **Orienting SPOT so that the SPOT logo is facing up toward the sky** will improve performance as the antenna is located under the logo.
3. **Keep the Messenger at least 12 inches away from other GPS devices** as SPOT can interfere with signal reception of other GPS devices.

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with a disability**

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Each time you turn on SPOT

SPOT performs a self-test to evaluate your entire messaging system, from the operational condition of the SPOT to the readiness of those you've chosen to receive your messages.

1. Go outside to where SPOT has a clear view of the sky in all directions.

2. Press and hold the ON/OFF button until the function light blinks **green**.

3. Press and hold the Check-In/OK button until the function light blinks **green**.

4. Leave SPOT outdoors. The GPS indicator light blinks green as SPOT acquires a GPS fix.

    Once SPOT acquires your GPS location, the Message Sending light and GPS light will blink **green** in unison for ~15 seconds to notify you that your message is being transmitted with GPS location.

    The Message Sending light will continue to blink **green** over the remainder of the 20 minute message cycle and for one (1) hour after the end of the message cycle (this is to provide you with additional time to check if your most recent message was transmitted). The Check-In/OK function light will turn off once the message cycle is complete.

5. Verify that the message was received in the email or SMS account(s) that you set up during activation in your Check-In/OK contact list.

6. You can also view your messages in your account at findmespot.com/en/.

    If the GPS light blinks **red**, SPOT does not have a clear view of the GPS satellites and you must move to an area with a clearer view of the sky for proper operation. Then repeat steps 2 through 5.

    You can update the names and contact information anytime via your account on the SPOT website. Leave your personal contact information as one of the contacts for future system testing and GPS acquisition before each trip.

Using Your SPOT Tracker

Power

- Press and hold the ON/OFF button until the button blinks **green** to turn SPOT on.
- The SPOT will then perform a self-diagnostic test.
- When power is ON, the button will blink **green** every three seconds. This is helpful for making SPOT more visible in the dark.
- To turn SPOT off, press and hold the ON/OFF button until the light stops blinking.

Light indicators

SPOT uses lights to tell you what it's doing. Take a moment to become familiar with these lights.

Function lights

Each button has a backlight that blinks when that button is active. To activate (or if applicable, cancel) any function, you must press and hold the button until the function light starts blinking (approximately three seconds).

GPS Light

The GPS light notifies you whether SPOT is able to see the GPS satellites and obtain your GPS location.

- **Green** – The GPS light blinks **green** while SPOT finds the GPS satellites and fixes a GPS location. Once the GPS location is obtained, the GPS light and Message Sending light blink **green** for approximately 15 seconds to notify you that your message was sent with your GPS location.

- **Red** – The GPS light blinks **red** if SPOT doesn't see the GPS satellites and /or can't find your GPS location. You should move to a location with a clearer view of the sky.

Message Sending Light

The Message Sending light notifies you whether or not your most recent message was transmitted.

- **Green** – The Message Sending light blinks **green** after SPOT transmits the most recent message.

- **Red** – The Message Sending light blinks **red** if SPOT didn't send the most recent message.

The Message Sending Light will continue to blink as appropriate for each function – until the next scheduled message (Track Progress, Help/SPOT Assist, SOS) and/or until one (1) hour after the message cycle is complete (Check-In/OK, Custom Message, Track Progress, Help/SPOT Assist).

Self-Test

- SPOT performs a self-test when first turned on. If all visible lights flash **red**, the SPOT self-test has found a failure, and SPOT will not send a message.

- If the On/Off light, GPS light and Message Sending light all blink **red**, SPOT has a GPS failure, but SPOT may still be able to transmit an SOS or Help/SPOT Assist message without your GPS location.

Check-in / OK and Custom Message

Let your contacts know where you are and how you're doing; or mark a single waypoint to review later.

Your contacts will receive SMS/text or email messages with your GPS coordinates. Email messages also include a link to view your location using Google Maps™.

Check-In/OK and Custom Message functions work the same way. This gives you the flexibility to send different messages to different contacts, or tailor messages for a specific purpose such as arranging pick-up at the end of your adventure.

Message Cycle

- SPOT will send your message and GPS location to the SPOT network three times over 20 minutes for maximum reliability (only one email or SMS/text message will actually be sent to your contacts).

- If SPOT cannot get a GPS signal, it will not send your Check-In/OK or Custom Message.

USING THE CHECK-IN / OK or CUSTOM MESSAGE FUNCTION

- Press and hold the Check-In/OK or Custom Message button until the function button blinks **green**.

- The GPS light will blink **green** when SPOT sees the GPS satellites and continue while obtaining your GPS location.

- Once your GPS location is obtained, SPOT sends your message and GPS location. The GPS light and Message Sending light will both blink **green** for approximately 15 seconds.

The Message Sending light continues to blink **green** after it transmits the most recent message and for one (1) hour after the end of the message cycle. Let SPOT work until the end of the message cycle when the Check-In/OK or Custom Message light stops blinking.

If no GPS signal is found, the GPS light will blink **red.** You should move to a location with a clearer view of the sky. SPOT will keep looking for your GPS location for up to 15 minutes.

To Cancel

You cannot cancel a Check-In/OK or Custom Message, but you can stop any unsent messages by turning SPOT off at any time, or by pressing any other function button.

Unsent messages are automatically disabled when you activate SOS, Help/SPOT Assist or Track Progress.

Help / SPOT assist

For non-life threatening situations, ask for help from friends and family or professional assistance providers using SPOT Assist. Your contacts will receive SMS/text or email messages with your GPS coordinates.

Email messages also include a link to view your location using Google Maps™. SPOT assist service partners will receive your SPOT Assist message and current GPS location.

Message Cycle

SPOT will send your message and current GPS location every five minutes for an hour for redundancy and overall reliability. If SPOT cannot get a GPS signal, it will still attempt to send your message without a GPS location.

USING THE HELP FUNCTION

- Press and hold the Help button until the function button blinks **green**. The GPS light will blink **green** when SPOT sees the GPS satellites and continue for up to 4 minutes while obtaining your GPS location.

- Once your GPS location is obtained, SPOT will send your message with GPS location. The GPS light and Message Sending light will both blink **green** for approximately 15 seconds. The Message Sending light continues to blink **green** until the next scheduled message or until one (1) hour after the end of the message cycle to notify you that your most recent message was transmitted.

- If no GPS signal is found, the GPS light will blink **red**. You should move to a location with a clearer view of the sky. SPOT will keep looking for your GPS location for up to 4 minutes. If no GPS location is found in 4 minutes, SPOT sends your message without GPS location. The GPS light blinks **red** and the Message Sending light blinks **green** together for approximately 15 seconds. The Message Sending light will continue blinking until the next scheduled message or until one (1) hour after the end of the message cycle. You can dismiss the Message Sending light by activating any other function or by turning SPOT off and then on.

TO CANCEL

- Press and hold the Help button until it blinks **red**. Let SPOT work until the Help button stops blinking **red**. The Message Sending light will blink **green** indicating it has sent the Cancel message.

SOS

For life-threatening or other critical situations, alert the GEOS International Emergency Rescue Coordination Centre (IERCC). GEOS notifies the appropriate emergency responders in Australia based on your location and personal information – which may include local police and other relevant emergency services.

Message Cycle

SPOT sends your emergency profile information and current GPS location to GEOS every five minutes until cancelled or the batteries run out. If SPOT cannot get a GPS signal, it will still attempt to send your message – without a GPS location. **There is no test mode.** If you activate the SOS function, the GEOS Rescue Coordination Centre **will** treat it as a real emergency.

USING THE SOS FUNCTION

- Press and hold the SOS button until it blinks **green**. The GPS light will blink **green** when SPOT sees the GPS satellites and while obtaining your GPS location.

- Once your GPS location is obtained, SPOT sends your message and GPS location. The GPS light and Message Sending light will both blink **green** for approximately 15 seconds. The Message Sending light continues to blink **green** until the next scheduled message to notify you that your most recent message was transmitted.

- If no GPS signal is found, the GPS light will blink **red**. You should move to a location with a clearer view of the sky.

- The first message will be sent within one minute after activation with or without your GPS location. For all subsequent messages, SPOT will keep looking for your GPS location for up to four minutes

- If no GPS location is found in four minutes, SPOT sends your message without GPS location. The GPS light blinks **red** and the Message Sending light blinks **green** for approximately 15 seconds. The Message Sending light will continue blinking **green** until the next scheduled message.

TO CANCEL

- Press and hold the SOS button until it blinks **red.** Let SPOT work until the SOS button stops blinking **red**. The Message Sending light will blink **green** indicating it has sent the Cancel message.

How the Lights BLINK - By Function

IF SPOT FINDS YOUR GPS LOCATION				
FUNCTION	**Message Function Light**	**GPS Light**	**Message Sending Light**	**Message Status**
Check-In/OK Custom Message	Function light blinks green until the message cycle is completed or cancelled.	GPS Light blinks green	Blinks green after transmitting the most recent message as appropriate for each function and for one (1) hour after the message cycle ends.	Message and location transmitted to the satellites.
Track Progress				
Help/ SPOT Assist				
SOS Emergency				

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1) The blinking green light in each function button lets you know that you have successfully engaged that function.

2) After you engage the function, SPOT looks for a GPS signal and location as indicated by the blinking green light.

3) Once the GPS location is obtained, SPOT sends your message and the GPS and Message Sending lights blink green together for 15 seconds, indicating a successful GPS fix and starting the message sending cycle.

IF SPOT DOESN'T FIND YOUR GPS LOCATION					
FUNCTION	**Function Button Light**	**GPS Light**	**Message Sending Light**	**Message Status**	**To Try Again**
Check-In/OK Custom Message	Blinks Green	Blinks Red	Blinks Red	Message not sent	Move to an area with a clear view of the sky. Press selected function again.
Track Progress	Blinks Green	Blinks Red. SPOT looks for GPS for 4 minutes, then rests for 6 minutes	Blinks Red	Message not sent	Move to an area with a clear view of the sky. SPOT will try to get a GPS location during the next message interval
Help/SPOT Assist	Blinks Green	Blinks Red. SPOT looks for GPS for 4 minutes then rests for 1 minute.	Blinks Green	Message sent without GPS	Move to an area with a clear view of the sky. SPOT will try to get a GPS location during the next message interval
SOS	Blinks Green	Blinks Red. SPOT looks for GPS for 4 minutes then rests for 1 minute.	Blinks Green	Message sent without GPS	Move to an area with a clear view of the sky. SPOT will try to get a GPS location during the next message interval

IMPORTANT NOTES:

CHECK-IN/OK OR CUSTOM MESSAGE: SPOT must get a GPS signal before sending your Check-In/OK or Custom Message. If no GPS signal is found, the GPS light blinks red and SPOT deactivates the function without sending any messages.

TRACK PROGRESS: SPOT must get a GPS signal before sending your waypoint. However, SPOT will stay in the Track Progress function, and again look for a GPS signal at the next scheduled message interval.

HELP/SPOT ASSIST: SPOT sends Help/SPOT Assist messages even without a GPS location. SPOT will again look for a GPS signal prior to sending the next scheduled message (~4-5 minutes), and repeat the entire message cycle.

SOS: SPOT sends SOS Emergency messages even without a GPS location. SPOT will again look for a GPS signal prior to sending the next scheduled message (~4-5 minutes after the first message), and repeat the entire message cycle.

Function overview

FUNCTION	OPERATION
Check-In/OK and Custom Message	- Messages scheduled 3 times over 20 minutes to contacts on your contact list - Message not sent if GPS location cannot be determined - Suspends Track Progress until message is sent, then Track Progress resumes automatically
Help/SPOT Assist	- Messages scheduled every 5 minutes for one hour with updated location to your friends and family, or SPOT Assist provider - Message scheduled even if GPS location cannot be determined - Overrides Check-In/OK, Custom Message, and Track Progress
SOS	- Messages scheduled every 5 minutes until cancelled (or batteries are depleted) with updated location to GEOS Rescue Coordination Center - Message scheduled even if GPS location cannot be determined - Overrides Check-In/OK, Custom Message, and Track Progress
Combined Help and SOS	- SOS messages scheduled every 5 minutes to GEOS Rescue Coordination Center until cancelled (or batteries are depleted) with updated location - Help messages scheduled every 5 minutes for one hour with updated location to your contacts - Message scheduled even if GPS location cannot be determined - Overrides Check-In/OK, Custom Message, and Track Progress Note: SPOT strongly recommends that you do not utilize Combined Help and SOS mode, as your friends and family could interfere with rescue efforts; see additional warnings in the FAQ section of www.findmespot.com.
Track Progress	- Updated location and two previous locations scheduled for transmission to your account every 10 minutes for 24 hours - Message not sent if GPS location cannot be determined

INDICATOR	BLINKING GREEN	BLINKING RED
GPS	Searching for GPS signal.	GPS location fix failed. Move to a new location.
Message Sending	Message transmission schedule in progress.	Last message was not sent.
Check-In/OK or Custom Message	Check-In/OK message sequence in progress.	N/A
Help	SPOT in Help/SPOT Assist mode.	Help/SPOT Assist has been cancelled.
SOS	SOS is engaged.	SOS has been cancelled.
Track Progress	SPOT in Track Progress mode.	N/A
On/Off	On	Low battery.