

Figure 9 shows different wrist watches and their potential interference if transceiver is held in the same hand during search.

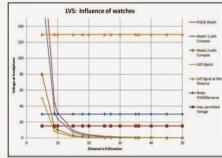


Figure 9: Possible interference from different wrist watches

Figure 9 shows that wrist watches have a significant influence in the distances closer than 10 to 15cm from a beacon in "SEARCH" mode.

Practical implications of figure 9: If the rescuer wears a wrist watch during search he should be aware to hold the searching beacon in the opposite hand to avoid possible influence to "SEARCH" mode.

6 CONCLUSIONS

As a matter of principle, avoid having interfering objects (e.g. mobile phones, radios, headlamps), metallic items (pocket knives, magnetic buttons), or other transceivers close to an avalanche transceiver. Please keep as well in mind that several beacons contain a magnetic compass, mainly to speed up direction indications during search. As the compass is highly susceptible to any magnetic interference, you should not wear clothing with magnetic buttons!

Users of pacemakers are advised to carry the device in a secure pant pocket. Consult the manufacturer's instructions with regard to the impact on pacemakers.

„SEND" Mode

The results of the measurements show that in "SEND" mode influence has to be expected in distances closer than 30mm from the transceiver

Since it is hard to predict where the worn interfering objects or metallic items come to rest after an avalanche burial, we recommend to keep a minimum distance of 20cm in "SEND" mode to the beacon.

„SEARCH" Mode

Based on the results and great variety of potentially interfering objects, it is not possible to give one final recommendation in terms of minimum distance for "SEARCH" mode.

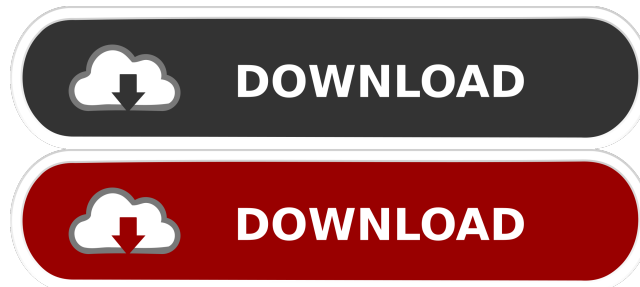
As a general recommendation for a search, hold the device at least a minimum of 50cm away from interfering objects and turn off any electronic devices, if possible. It is highly re-commended in this case to turn off mobile phones!

Finally, it is recommended that more testing will be done. There are many more potentially interfering objects that have to be tested with the currently available beacons as well as with new beacon generations in the future.

Conflict of interest

The first author of this paper is an employee of CCS Adaxys, and is involved in the development of avalanche transceivers.

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