

# GPS

## Global Positioning System

### About the Global Positioning System (GPS)

There are four GPS formats. Each format is unique and is not interchangeable with the others. Air Link 1 utilizes the degrees, minutes, tenths, and hundredths of a minute format. This is displayed on a GPS unit as 41.51.57N (latitude) by 103.40.02W (longitude).

### Using GPS to guide Air Link to your location

Most GPS units can be programmed to report locations using any one of the formats. Be sure to pick the format “degrees, minutes, tenths, and hundredths of a minute”. Each unit is different, so you will have to refer to your owner’s manual to change the GPS display format if needed. This ensures that your coordinates can be used when launching and guiding Air Link 1.

### How does GPS work

GPS works by connecting to multiple satellites in order to triangulate a location. This will give the position of the unit. The more satellites the signal connects to, the more accurate the position. Older GPS units are significantly slower than new units and require a clearer view of the sky. All units should be turned on 2-5 minutes before obtaining coordinates. Older units must be turned on for 5-10 minutes before. This will ensure the most accurate coordinates. The first time you turn on a unit it will take a long time to connect. This amount of time decreases with subsequent usage.

As with everything, practice makes perfect. We recommend practicing every staff meeting. We invite you to call Air Link Communications at 1.800.252.2215 and dispatchers will confirm your coordinates. Practice will make everything easier when the need arises for Air Link in your coverage area.

Thank you,

Transfer Center at Regional West

**AIR LINK**  
REGIONAL WEST

**24 HOUR DISPATCH**  
**800.252.2215**

