



Frequently Asked Questions — Sidewinder® Rescue

The following *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* were prepared to help answer any questions you may have about the Sidewinder® Rescue.

Q: What is the Sidewinder Rescue?

A: The Sidewinder Rescue is a slim, lightweight personal distress marker designed to meet a variety of hands-free task illumination requirements with four different colored LEDs operable at varying outputs and run times.

In addition, it can be used as a life-saving beacon in times of distress. The Sidewinder Rescue features a 185° articulating head with a “slide-in-place” diffuser that projects omni-directional light, allowing others to see you from almost anywhere.

Q: What color LEDs are featured in the light? Are the different colors meant for different purposes?

A: The Sidewinder Rescue features the same color LEDs as the aviation model of the existing Sidewinder: white, blue, green and IR LEDs. Each color LED is meant to be helpful in different situations:

- White: To give the user bright white light
- Blue: Helps to alert friendly forces and distinguishes strobe from ground fire
- Green: Helps to preserve night vision
- IR: For use with night vision equipment and for covert operations

Please note that each LED has multiple output levels: Low, Medium 1, Medium 2, High and Strobe. Each turns on at the lowest output and progresses to the highest in four discrete steps. The strobe, or flash rate, can also be changed with a press of the light’s switch.

Q: What is the flash rate of the light?

A: The strobe or flash rate of the Sidewinder Rescue automatically defaults to 110 bpm. Pushing and holding the switch changes the rate to 50 bpm. This is a slower speed that helps to distinguish the strobe from ground fire and act as a distress beacon.

Q: Can the diffuser be used with all of the LEDs?

A: The diffuser can be used with each of the four LEDs featured in the light.

Q: Is the diffuser attached to the Sidewinder Rescue or is it a separate accessory?

A: The Sidewinder Rescue’s slide-in-place diffuser is attached to the light. As a result, you don’t need to worry about keeping track of filter attachments that can get lost or broken. Users can just slide it into place over the LEDs as needed.

Q: Why is the omni-directional light you get when using the diffuser important?

A: By using the diffuser, the Sidewinder Rescue can be used as a life-saving beacon in times of distress. With the diffuser in place over one of the LEDs, the light can be seen from almost anywhere. Instead of the light just being seen from directly in front of the light, it allows the light to be seen in multiple directions around the light.

Q: Can the Sidewinder Rescue be used as a regular flashlight?

A: Yes. The Sidewinder Rescue can be used as a regular flashlight both with and without the diffuser in place. Slide the diffuser out of the way for a focused beam for use with general lighting needs. When used with the diffuser in place, the light pattern of the LED is dispersed, covering a broader area. This makes it an effective light for close-up work or in tight places where you may not want a focused beam.

Q: What are the different ways this light can be used?

A: In addition to being used as a distress beacon, the Sidewinder Rescue can be used in a multitude of other ways. Some suggested uses are below:

- Use on search and rescue missions with a K9 or military working dog by putting the light in diffuser mode on the animal's collar. This allows the handler/team to stay in visual contact during night operations when the animal is off-leash.
- With the green LED selected, use as a tactical casualty light to mark non-urgent triage patients.
- The multiple LED colors, as well as the omni-directional beam pattern and variable intensities, make the light a useful tool for hasty landing zones to mark for wind direction and approach. For example:
 - Helicopters: Blue is a universal color used to mark wind direction; also, any strobe color, except white, can mark each corner of a landing zone. (Use the light's lanyard hole to secure placement into the ground against rotor-wash with a nail or spike.)
 - Jets/Planes: Steady green means clear for takeoff; flashing green means clear to taxi; flashing white means return to starting point.

Q: Would the Sidewinder Rescue be appropriate for water rescue operations in municipal fire service?

A: Yes. There are many fire rescue agencies that conduct swift water rescue operations. These agencies use a variety of products to identify personnel and victims in the water. The Sidewinder Rescue provides an additional safety option for these operations.

Q: Can you use the Sidewinder Rescue as a hands-free lighting tool?

A: Yes. The Sidewinder Rescue can be used in a number of ways as a hands-free light. The light will attach to a helmet or vest, and fits all existing Sidewinder series mounts, including rail systems. Rail systems are combat proven for security, visibility and hands-free illumination. In addition, the light can be placed on any of its sides for static placement.

Q: How does the Sidewinder Rescue differ from other lights that strobe?

A: Other lights may only offer strobe beacons in one or two colors, and may have non-LED emitters. This means that if the light breaks or fails, the light is no longer useful. In comparison, the Sidewinder Rescue has four different color LEDs, and can still be used if one of the LEDs stops working. In addition, each LED has variable intensity settings and strobe, which gives users the option of selecting the light level and run time for the task at hand and potentially preserving batteries.

Because the Sidewinder Rescue features an IR LED that can be used with the attached diffuser, it will never leak white light or cause issues when used with night vision goggles. Different lights on the market use IR filters, which can be lost or damaged, allowing white light to "leak" when using the IR mode. Filtered lights can also overwhelm night vision goggles due to IR light being transmitted in visible modes.

In addition, because the diffuser is attached and slides into place, you don't need to worry about keeping track of filter attachments as you would with other lights.

Q: Are there any regulations governing the sale of the Sidewinder Rescue?

A: No. A main difference between Streamlight's Sidewinder Rescue and other distress markers on the market is that our light is not regulated by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

The ITAR is a set of United States government regulations controlling the export and import of defense-related articles and services on the United States Munitions List (USML).

Q: What is included with the Sidewinder Rescue Kit?

A: The kit includes two AA alkaline batteries (it will also accept lithium AA batteries), MOLLE retainer, para cord lanyard, and an aluminum plate that serves a flat surface for Velcro® attachment to a helmet.

Q: What is the purpose of the para cord lanyard?

A: Attaching the Sidewinder Rescue to the lanyard provides extra security from loss of the light and also allows it to be worn around the neck.

In addition, the lanyard can enhance air-to-ground visibility when the light is turned on and the lanyard is spun overhead like a lasso in a circular pattern. This movement produces a larger, moving beam footprint that can increase the likelihood of being spotted by a search and rescue team.