



## DEFENCE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE WEBSITE ORDNANCE INFORMATION SHEET

**ALL UXO MAY BE HAZARDOUS IF DISTURBED  
DO NOT TOUCH – TAKE A PHOTO – MARK THE LOCATION – CALL THE POLICE**

### MARINE MARKER – MARK 25

#### Description

- The Marine Marker, Mark 25 (Mk 25) is a smoke-and-flame pyrotechnic used for sea-surface reference-point marking. The Mk 25 is most commonly used in Search & Rescue operations, anti-submarine warfare and maritime research (e.g. determining wind direction and velocity). It can be launched by hand or by sonobuoy launcher from either aircraft or surface ships.
- The Mk 25 contains a water-activated battery and red phosphorous pyrotechnic composition. When seawater activates the battery, the red phosphorous pyrotechnic composition is ignited. Yellow flame and white smoke are emitted for 10-20 minutes – once the signal is expended, a small scuttling charge should sink the container.
- There are a number of variations of the Mk 25 Marine Marker – all of which function in the same manner. Both military and commercial types have been made and used (other nation's and commercial variants may have different names). In addition, a wide variety of other marine markers have been used by Australian and other military forces as well as commercial and research organisations from WWII to the present.
- Both unexpended and expended markers are often found in maritime areas and washed ashore. A number of incidents have occurred with the Mk 25 (and other markers) due to unexpended phosphorus or a build-up of a phosphorous-type crust – this has occasionally resulted in either fire injury/damage or low-order detonation (rupturing of the case) if the item is disturbed or re-exposed to water. The marker also contains a small explosive charge which may cause injuries.

#### Technical Data

- Length : approx. 470 mm
- Diameter : approx 75 mm
- Weight : approx 1.7 kg
- Fuse/Burster : Contains a water-activated initiation system.
- Filling : Contains red phosphorous pyrotechnic composition and explosive scuttling pellet.
- Identification :
  - The body of the Mk 25 marker is normally made of aluminium or metal alloy; often unpainted (silver or metallic in colour) or painted grey.
  - It may have one or more bands of colour (usually green) with red hazard warnings on a white background.
  - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. It can be difficult to distinguish between dangerous and safe items - **treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images



Figure 1 - Marine Marker KC-25 (inert) – commercial variant of the Mk 25



Figure 2 - US Navy Aircrew deploys a MK-25 marine location marker  
(Public domain photograph from defenseimagery.mil)



Figure 3 - Marine Marker Mk 25, Mod 3



Figure 4 - Marine Marker functioning on water



Figure 5 - Marine Marker C2A2 (similar to Mk 25) washed ashore onto beach