

Using MN Emergency Trail Locator Signs with a GPS

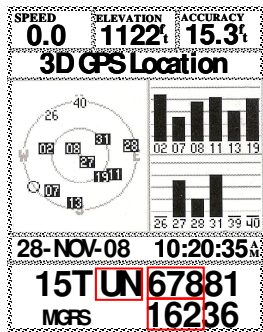
You do not need a GPS to have fun riding on the MRT. However, if you enjoy playing with your other toys, you may want to enter Trail locator sign info into your GPS for reference.

Minnesota Emergency Trail Locator Signs are derived using the US National Grid (MSRG) coordinate system. MSRG is a rectangular grid with scaleable coordinates.

Locator sign example: Martineau Recreational Trail – Trailhead

15T UN 67881 16236

Coordinates are rounded to nearest 1/10 km



A screenshot of a GPS location settings menu. It has a title 'Location Alarms In' and several fields: 'Location Format' set to 'MGFS', 'Map Datum' set to 'NAD 83', 'North Reference' (empty), and 'Magnetic Variation' (empty).



To get a GPS to display MSRG coordinates, set the Datum to NAD-83 or WGS-84. Then select MGFS as the coordinate system. Your GPS will typically display the grid (15T UN) along with 10 digits (the first 5 are easting and second 5 are northing) giving a resolution of 1 m. The coordinates on the sign have been rounded to show a resolution of 1/10 km.

To convert MN Emergency Trail Locator Sign coordinates to MSRG coordinates for a GPS (Minnesota Only) use the following steps:

For all areas within the Paul Bunyan State Forest enter “15T” followed by the UN grid designation (1st 2 letters on sign) followed by the easting (1st 3 numbers on sign and 2 zeros added) followed by the northing (2nd 3 numbers on the sign and 2 zeros added)

Coordinate will have an accuracy of about 330 ft.

15T UN 67800 16200