



Thank you for purchasing an All Traffic Solutions InstAlert 18 Variable Message Sign. This Quick Start Guide will show you how to set up, power, and configure your new sign. If you have a TrafficCloud subscription, you can log on to TrafficCloud to set up your signs remotely. Non-subscribers can complete sign setup locally.



NOTE: If your purchase includes the Integrated Solar option, this guide DOES NOT apply to your product. Please refer to either the *ATS 3 Trailer with Integrated Solar Setup Guide* or *Pole Mounting Signs with Integrated Solar Option* that came with your sign and available on www.alltrafficsolutions.com.



[Figure 1] InstAlert 18 Variable Message Sign

Step 1: Unpack the equipment

Remove the sign, batteries, charger, and other optional equipment from the boxes.

Batteries should be fully charged before deployment. InstAlert Variable Message Signs can accommodate up to two 16Ah lithium batteries internally. Although only one battery is required, two batteries are recommended to extend the run time of the sign, on average from 7 to 10 days.

For all steps involving batteries, repeat for the second battery as necessary.

To remove the batteries:

- A. Place the InstAlert 18 face down on a flat surface and remove the mounting bracket by unlocking the lock with the supplied key and lifting up on the bottom of the mounting bracket.



[Figure 2] Slide the battery [Figure 3] Disconnect/connect the battery

- B. Next, remove the battery compartment cover by removing the thumb screws. Set the key, bracket, and thumb screws aside.
- C. Slide the battery out of the battery compartment, as shown in [Figure 2] above.
- D. Disconnect the connectors, as shown in [Figure 3] above.

Step 2: Charge the batteries

The InstAlert 18 arrives with the batteries partially charged and needs to be fully charged before deployment.



WARNING: RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK AND DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT The charger is not intended for outdoor use. Only charge and store the batteries in a controlled environment.

- A. Plug the battery into the supplied charger cable.
- B. Plug the charger cable into a power outlet. The light on the charger displays red while charging and changes to green when charging is nearly complete. A charge can take up to 11 hours for the 12V 16Ah LFP batteries supplied with the sign.
- C. When the indicator on the battery charger turns green, repeat for the second battery if applicable, and then proceed to the next step.

Step 3: Install the charged batteries

Follow these steps to install the charged batteries.



CAUTION: Use only the SHORT (3/8"-length) thumb screws to fasten the battery covers. Do NOT use the longer (3/4"-length) thumb screws supplied for the Your Speed faceplate, as they are too long and can cause damage to your sign.

- A. Disconnect the battery from the charger.
- B. Place the InstAlert face down on a flat surface and remove the mounting bracket and battery cover.
- C. Connect the battery wiring harness to the connector inside the battery compartment, as shown in [\[Figure 3\] on the previous page](#).
- D. Tuck the connector into the space in the top of the battery compartment.
- E. Holding the connector in place, slide the battery into the compartment.
- F. Replace the cover and fasten it down using the thumb screws.

Step 4: Configure the InstAlert 18 locally

If you have a TrafficCloud subscription, you should use this step only to power on your InstAlert, and instead configure the sign online, setting the sign display options and assigning a Site. It's best to perform sign setup in advance, so that your traffic data is captured in TrafficCloud immediately. See the *Getting Started with TrafficCloud* guide for your sign.

If you don't have a TrafficCloud Web subscription or the TrafficCloud Mobile app for Android (over Bluetooth), you can configure your sign using the **Speed Limit** and **Display Mode** buttons, and TrafficCloud Sign Manager for Windows, connecting over the supplied USB A-to-mini B cable or over Bluetooth. The mini-B port is located above the buttons inside the mounting channel for Shields, SpeedAlert 18s, and InstAlert 18s, and inside the back of the sign for the SpeedAlert 24s and InstAlert 24s. For Bluetooth pairing, use code "ATS".



To configure the sign locally:

- A. Turn the sign on by pressing the **Power** button on the back, inside the mounting channel.
The InstAlert will go through start-up and self-check sequences. Once the self-check is complete, the sign is fully operational. A green LED on the top-left corner flashes every 10 seconds to indicate when the sign is powered on.
- B. Verify or set the display mode on the InstAlert. The default is **Single Message Mode** for message-enabled signs.
- C. To change the mode, press the **Display Mode** (or **Display Settings**) button until the desired mode displays on the sign. For details about display modes, see the applicable figures and table below for your sign.



NOTE: To reduce the risk of tampering, the buttons deactivate five minutes after you power on the sign. To reactivate them, long press the **Power** button again.

InstAlert Display Modes

As mentioned, optionally you can use the sign's onboard buttons to configure a speed limit and other display settings. Here are the available modes with the InstAlert:



Display Mode	Description
MSG MODE	Single Message mode: Selects from the messages saved in the sign to display.
ALL MSGS	All Messages mode: Displays all of the messages saved in the sign in sequence.
DEP MSG	Dependent Messages mode: Can be used as a timer, to display different messages based on the value of the internal timer. Often used for New Year's countdowns or casual race information. The timer is controlled with TrafficCloud Sign Manager.
SPEED DISP	Speed Display mode (Radar signs only): Displays the speeds of the approaching vehicle.
DISPLAY OFF	Display Off mode: Turns off but the display but the sign is still active and gathering sign status for InstAlerts, and traffic and other data for SpeedAlerts, if subscribed. Also, referred to as "stealth mode".
SP LMT SIGN	Speed Limit Sign mode: Sets the Speed Limit to display.

Step 5: Install the Your Speed sign attachment

To save packing space, the Your Speed sign attachment ships in the transport position.

To set the sign attachment in the deployed position:

- Remove the 3/4" torx bolts (wrench included) and washers from the Your Speed sign and set them aside. If there is no concern about tampering, you can use the 3/4" long thumb screws in place of the torx bolts.
- Reposition the Your Speed sign above the display.
- Place a washer over each hole in the sign bracket and push the torx bolts through the holes in the Your Speed sign and the brackets and frame, as shown in the example at right.
- Reinstall the fasteners to finish installing the Your Speed sign.



Step 6: Mount the InstAlert 18

Use the instructions in this step for details about mounting the sign.

To install the sign mounting bracket:

- A. If you are mounting the sign on a round pole, thread two stainless steel banding straps (not included) through the sign mounting bracket, and then tighten the bracket and straps around the pole. Thread the ends of the banding straps together and then tighten them onto the pole.
- B. If you are mounting the sign on a U-shaped or square pole, bolt the sign mounting bracket to the pole using the supplied carriage bolts or U bolts, and wing nuts.

The wing nuts will be secured inside the back of the sign to prevent tampering.

To mount the sign:

Before you mount the sign, make sure that it's turned on. See [Step 4: Configure the InstAlert 18 locally on page 2](#).

- A. Set the top channel on the back of the sign onto the tab at the top of the mounting bracket.
- B. Rotate the sign down until it's flush with the bracket.
- C. Push the locking pin up to lock the sign into place.
- D. Strap the excess cable to the pole.



Getting help

We're here to help! If you have any concerns while using your new sign, please visit our Technical Customer Support page at www.alltrafficsolutions.com/support.