

Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network

Policy # 03-2001	Adopted: June 6, 2001	Approved by:
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OFFICIAL POLICY - Emergency Alert Function

DATE: May 21, 2001

PURPOSE: To identify the purpose, operation and proper use of the emergency alert function on all PPRCN portable radios.

SCOPE: All personnel carrying radios operating on the PPRCN network

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The orange “Emergency Alert” button, located on the top of the Astro portable radios, and on the control face of mobile radios labeled “EMER”, is programmed to transmit an emergency notification and an identifier for that radio. This signal is sent to the appropriate Communications Center monitoring the 800 MHz Radio System for the radio in question, (See listing below). All PPRCN radios are programmed with an active Emergency Alert button.

The Emergency Alert button is normally to be activated only in case of a life threatening emergency. It can, however, be used to indicate that the radio user has become incapacitated and requires immediate assistance.

When the button is activated a brief medium pitched tone is heard, followed by 4 high pitched beeps to indicate that a Communications Center has received the transmission. The dispatcher receiving an Emergency Alert is to verbally acknowledge the Alert signal, stating, “(Unit ID) Welfare Check”. If the user of the activated radio does not respond to the welfare check the dispatcher is to notify radio users in the same Talkgroup of the situation. If this is not possible, the dispatcher is to begin a process designed to advise the appropriate jurisdiction, department, section, or unit of the situation.

If a radio user has a life threatening emergency he/she is to respond to the Welfare Check by indicating the location and nature of the emergency.

The different operational routines and or limitations of the various User Groups require procedures based on these needs and circumstances. Each User Group is responsible for establishing appropriate procedures with the cooperation of the Communications Center monitoring their Emergency Alert signals. Each User Group is responsible for providing their respective monitoring Communications Center with contact names and numbers and radio identifier aliases.

To deactivate the transmission of the Emergency Alert signal the user must press the Push-to-Talk button, or turn the radio off and then back on. If the Alert button is accidentally activated, the radio user should immediately advise the dispatcher that he/she does not have an emergency. Failure to cancel/clear an Emergency Alert could needlessly result in the dispatch of Law Enforcement personnel.

Emergency Alert notifications only appear on radio consoles equipped with Motorola Gold Elite operator positions. Only Communications Centers with this equipment are able to respond to Emergency Alert notifications.