



**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
FIRE SERVICE POLICY**

Policy No.	5955	Date Issued:	May 8, 2023
Section:	5900 – Specific Procedures	Date Revised:	
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ALERT RADIO BUTTON			
APPROVED:	<u><signed copy on file></u> Chairperson, Fire Service Users Subcommittee		
APPROVED:	<u><signed copy on file></u> Amethyst Uchida, General Manager		

1.0 Purpose

Fire Department portable radios are equipped with an emergency alert button (EAB). The EAB is typically orange in color and is located on the top of the radio and on the speaker-microphone. Pushing the EAB will send an emergency alarm through the dispatch radio console, including a display of a unique identification number assigned to that specific portable radio. Each radio has been identified as belonging to a specific position in each company, or to a specific officer in an administrative assignment.

The EAB activation is for the immediate notification of a firefighter who is in imminent danger and speaking on the radio is not possible. Examples may include but not limited to an injury that precludes the firefighter from speaking or transmitting on their portable, any emergency where heavy radio traffic does not allow the firefighter to break in, or an encounter with violent or dangerous persons where the firefighter will be in greater danger if they speak on the radio.

2.0 Policy

- 2.1 The primary radio dispatcher will immediately respond to all EAB alarms received. Actions shall be taken, as directed in this procedure, to attempt to contact the indicated firefighter, verify any emergency, and send assistance, if needed.
- 2.2 The fire agency shall ensure the database holding the radio identification numbers is updated correctly each time they are informed of a change.

3.0 Procedure

- 3.1 Upon receiving an EAB, the primary radio dispatcher shall identify the personnel or unit assigned to the radio by looking at the indicator on the radio console to conduct a safety check.
- 3.2 If the unit/personnel is on an active incident
 - 3.2.1 Raise Incident Commander (IC) to advise of the activated alarm
 - 3.2.2 If it is a single unit on an incident, attempt to raise the unit
 - 3.2.2.1 If no response after two attempts in either situation, raise the Battalion Chief (BC) on the radio. If no response, text page the BC. If still no response, call the BC.
 - 3.2.3 If the unit/personnel are not on an active incident
 - 3.2.3.1 Raise the unit on the radio
 - 3.2.3.2 If no response after two attempts, raise the BC to advise of the activated alarm.
 - 3.2.4 If the unit identifies an emergency, alert tone, repeat location and emergency, and dispatch the BC and law enforcement. A priority restriction should be put on the channel until units are code 4 according to Policy 5321.
 - 3.2.5 If there is no response from any attempts to raise the unit or BC, emergency law enforcement assistance will be dispatched to the known or last known location. If it is clear other assistance is needed, such as medical help or extrication, the dispatcher will create and assign the appropriate response.
- 3.3 Accidental activations
 - 3.3.1 Accidental activation of the EAB may occur; do not become complacent. If there is any doubt as to the veracity of the alarm, follow the notification and dispatch procedures.