

FCECS/CoMIRS

Training Bulletin 2021-01

Personnel Safety: Emergency Button



The FCECS/CoMIRS radios are equipped with emergency buttons, on both portable and mobile radio systems. This emergency function is for use in a critical situation. These buttons are orange and can be seen in the above images. Use of the emergency function provides several features:

- Provides notification of an emergency situation to dispatchers and receiving radios
- Ruthlessly pre-empts any conversation in progress on the radio channel and allows the operator with the emergency to communicate on the radio channel
- Reserves capacity on the radio system for the emergency communication for the duration of the emergency situation

To activate the emergency function:

- Push the emergency button for one (1) second – you will then hear a tone, and you will be in emergency mode. An alarm goes off on dispatch consoles and their radio volume goes to maximum.
- Press the Push to Talk (PTT) button - Identify yourself, who you are calling, where you are, what you have / need. If another radio was transmitting or the system was busy, you will *ruthlessly pre-empt*, or override that transmission.
- Subsequent transmissions by the same, or other radios with their emergency function activated, will override any conversation in progress each time the PTT is pressed.

- Capacity on the radio system will be reserved for the radio talk group you are on.
- When the emergency is over, press and hold the orange emergency button for more than two seconds, or power the radio off / on to reset back to normal mode. The dispatcher must also knock down the alarm to release the reserved capacity on the radio system.

Emergency function channel selection:

- When operating on FC Zone talk groups, i.e., FC Fire 1, FC Police 2, FC OPS 3, FC OPS 4, FC OPS 5, FC OPS 6, FC OPS 7, Greenfield FD & PD, Turners Falls FD, Montague PD and Orange FD & PD the emergency function is activated directly on those talk groups. The emergency function will also activate on the encrypted channels, i.e., FC OPS 11e. These talk groups are monitored by dispatchers and an activation will alert them. Activations will also show up as an alarm on dispatch consoles.
- When operating on local direct talk groups, i.e. FC TAC 8, FC TAC 9, FC TAC 10, FC TAC 12e, activation of the emergency function causes the radio to communicate with other radio users on the same local direct talk group, i.e., Incident Command, Operations, Safety, etc. There is no indication to the operator that the alarm and subsequent communications are going over the local direct talk group other than the operator noting the selected talk group that they are communicating on. Dispatchers do not monitor the local direct talk groups and will not be alerted to the emergency. The radio returns to its selected talk group when the emergency function is reset.
- There is no emergency function when operating in interoperable / mutual aid zones. These are; FC MUT AID Analog & Digital, Law OPS Analog & Digital, LPS Analog & Digital, EVENT Analog & Digital, PD & FD MUT AID Analog & Digital, UASI INTOP Analog & Digital, 800 MA TCIP, 800 Interop, 700 Interop 1, 700 Interop 2, 700 Interop 3, 700 Interop 4, 700 Interop 5.