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- › **Making life better**
- › **Kids inventions**
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- › **Home**

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Emergalert

by Don Wilkie

[Inspiration](#) | [How does it work?](#) | [Further information](#)

Emergalert is an emergency vehicle alert system that provides a broadcast frequency to override road users' AM and FM radio. It transmits the Standard Australian Emergency Warning Signal followed by an announcement over both bands. It allows emergency vehicles using sirens to alert road users of their impending approach.

Inspiration

Don has always been interested in new technology and electronics, and commissioned an electrical engineer to help him realise the Emergalert.

How does it work?

Emergalert is fitted to emergency vehicles and temporarily overrides road users' radios within a 300 metre distance with a warning signal and an announcement. It uses a low power transmitter (30 milliwatts) to transmit the signal, and the message is repeated every 3 seconds whilst the car is in front or to the side of the emergency vehicle. Through both the warning signal and

Contact Emergalert

For more information about the Emergalert, contact the following: www.emergalert.com.au

About Don Wilkie

Don Wilkie is a career fire fighter. His father used to repair fire trucks and as a child Don would watch him work. He initially joined the brigade as a volunteer and always wanted to be a fire fighter. Don worked in building and demolition for 10 years and when a position arose for a permanent fire-fighter position, Don jumped at the chance. Don is married and has two kids, Jessica and Chloe.

Your say

greenfire spark plugs: the idea brilliant has any body found any more information about these plugs or has it been shelved
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announcement, drivers are alerted to approaching emergency vehicles. This signal will cease as the emergency vehicle passes and car radios return to their normal AM or FM radio signal.

Through Don's personal experience, he realised there was potential in saving time getting to locations if road users were alerted earlier. He says road users don't hear emergency vehicle sirens until they are near, and in most cases it is often too difficult for vehicles to move out of the way. Emergalert addresses these issues by trying to alert road users as quickly as possible to clear the road ahead and also improve road safety. The device works in conjunction with emergency services sirens. When a siren is turned on, the Emergalert is on. The warning transmitted is the Australian Emergency Standard Warning Signal. The warning signal is a wailing siren sound used throughout Australia for various emergency events of major significance, such as cyclones, flooding and severe storms. The signal is designed to alert people that an official emergency announcement is about to be made concerning an actual or imminent emergency that has the potential to affect them, and to alert the community at large, via a public address system. The announcement that follows this signal is: "give way to approaching emergency vehicle".

The device will transmit a signal over both AM and FM at the same time between the frequencies of 700-1600 for AM radio and 88 - 108 for FM radio. Another key element of the Emergalert is the EVL (Emergency Vehicle Locator). The EVL automatically activates alerting two or more emergency vehicles equipped with EMERGALERT of the others presence on-route to an emergency within 300 metres of each other. The Emergalert is powered via car battery. It is a small compact unit that sits underneath the driver's seat whilst a small antenna is positioned near the grill of the vehicle.

Further information

Point of Difference:

Similar products exist in the UK, however they only transmit over one band. Don has discovered the method of transmitting between the AM and FM bands only using one transmitter. A similar system is the technology used in the M5 and Sydney Harbour tunnel. However, they re-broadcast every popular station for road users using multiple transmitters, whereas the Emergalert uses only one.



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