

Land Mobile Radio (LMR)

Our appliances and support vehicles carry an LMR. This is attached to a vehicle. It is used to communicate with the Comcen.

The OIC is responsible for communicating with the Comcen. Often, the driver/pump operator (No. 3) will relay messages from the OIC to the Comcen using the LMR.

You need to know how to place a **priority call** using an LMR, in case you are the only person able to call for assistance.

Your station should have a copy of the guide to the LMR. It is recommended you read this because it provides a clear explanation on the use of this type of radio.

When you press in a command or code, the screen will flash up words telling you what that command is.



Key words

priority call *a communication that is more important than any other*

To make a call

The LMR has two types of **transmission**:

- tone transmission, known as Selcall
- voice transmission.

Tone transmission

Tone transmissions use a series of tones (beeps) to send codes between the Comcen and appliances. Codes are used to reduce the number of voice transmissions that are made. The tone transmission sent by pressing the priority button sounds an alarm at the Comcen to get the attention of the **Comcen operator**.

Voice transmission

Voice transmission means using your voice to communicate from an appliance or support vehicle to the Comcen (or from the Comcen to the appliance or support vehicle).

There are two types of voice transmission:

- **routine** call, the normal kind of transmission
 - priority call, a transmission that is more important than any other call.
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Key words

transmission	<i>the delivery of a message or signal</i>
Comcen operator	<i>person at Comcen who takes calls and messages and sends what the firefighters on the incident ground need</i>
routine	<i>ordinary; not special</i>

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How to use voice transmission

1. Send a tone transmission to Comcen requesting permission to use voice transmission.

To do this, press either the:

- R button (for a routine call request) or
- P button (for a priority call request).

2. The Comcen operator gets the signal and will contact you as soon as they can.



Priority call requests (P) sound an alarm in the Comcen and always get answered before routine calls.

3. The Comcen responds to the appliance by voice. When responding, Comcen will use the call sign for the appliance, for example, 'Clevedon 421'.



4. Use the LMR microphone or handset to pass your message to Comcen.



If you have to make a priority call request

Unless specifically ordered by the OIC to send a message, you would only need to use the LMR to send a message if you were the only firefighter able to send a call for help. This could happen if other members of your crew were injured.

If you have to make a priority call:

- 1.** Decide what you have to say first. Calling for help using a priority call is like making a 111 call. You must tell the Comcen operator what has happened and if anyone is injured. You may also need to tell them exactly where you are.
- 2.** Follow the steps for 'How to place a priority call request'.
- 3.** Give your message when the Comcen operator contacts you.

How to place a priority call request

- 1.** Press the P button on the LMR.

The radio automatically makes five attempts to send the request.

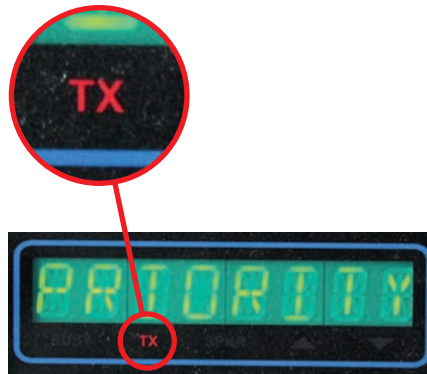


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2. You will know the call request has been sent because:

- the radio beeps twice
- the TX light (transmit indicator) goes on, then off
- PRIORITY flashes on the display screen.

If none of this happens, you haven't pushed the button, or the radio is switched off.



3. Check your call has gone through.

YES

If the call request gets to Comcen:

- the radio beeps twice
- the display stops flashing
- the display screen will show PRIORITY.



NO

If the call request *cannot* get through to Comcen:

- the radio beeps five times
- the PRIORITY display stops flashing.

If the call request does NOT get through the first time, the radio will automatically try four more times.



4. If, after five automatic tries, the call request has not gone through to Comcen, press the CLR button.

This resets the radio. Next, you can:

- a) try again (from Step 1)
- b) change channels then try again
- c) move to a location with better reception, then try again.



Codes

Sometimes it can be helpful to use codes to quickly communicate a situation. We use codes to communicate several things on the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) network, such as:

- the status of a vehicle
- arrival messages
- the condition of a casualty.

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K codes

K codes are used to communicate when using radios in vehicles.

Here are K codes you are likely to come across.



Key words

K codes *code messages used to advise the Comcen of fire appliance or personnel status*

Code	Meaning
K1	Proceeding to incident
K2	In attendance at incident
K7	At normal station
K11	Requesting a service (You need to say what service is required and the reason, if necessary.)
K11-1	Police required – confidential
K12	Suspicious nature (deliberate with intent to cause damage)
K55	First appliance in attendance – special service incident
K66	First appliance in attendance – non-property fire
K77	First appliance in attendance – nothing showing, investigating further
K88	First appliance in attendance – property fire, apparently small
K99	First appliance in attendance – property fire, well involved



NOTE

A complete list of all K codes can be found in every fire appliance.