

# Emergency Communications Programs and Services

## SaskAlert

SaskAlert is Saskatchewan's emergency public alerting program, which is used to alert the public in real-time of an emergency. It provides information that enables the public to take action to protect themselves. SaskAlert is part of a national public alerting initiative that is supported by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments – where emergency alerts are being distributed across Canada from one alerting system.

Alerts can be issued for any event that has the potential of harming people or damaging property. Events can include tornadoes, plow winds and blizzards. Other events include wildfires, spills of hazardous material, train derailments, boil water advisories, evacuations, or local emergency declarations.

For more information, email [saskalert@gov.sk.ca](mailto:saskalert@gov.sk.ca) or call 306-787-6678.

## Sask911

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's Sask911 system provides province-wide access to 9-1-1 emergency call taking. People can call 9-1-1 from landlines and payphones across the province, and from cell phones and wireless devices if they are in range of a cell tower.

Emergency calls for police, fire, rescue, or emergency medical services are received by trained 9-1-1 operators. These trained call takers determine the nature of an emergency and transfer the call to an emergency dispatch operator for the pre-determined emergency response agency designated for that geographical area. This ensures that calls are directed to the appropriate dispatch service to notify the correct response agency.

If an emergency service provider is wanted to establish dispatch services, the SPSA will work with the new agency to ensure that the proper requirements and standards are met. The SPSA will help establish procedures, mutual agreements, set up boundaries on provincial maps, and outline fees, contracts, and communications that meet the requirements of the Sask911 program.

Contact [Sask911inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Sask911inquiry@gov.sk.ca) for more information.

## Provincial Emergency Communications Centre (PECC)

The PECC is a state-of-the-art emergency communications centre that provides a variety of services to first responders, enforcement groups and the large public safety network. Dispatch services include emergency call processing, status checks, Canadian Police Information Centre inquiries, SGI queries, notifications, resource assistance requests, accountability checks and ongoing communication. These services are agency specific and are managed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Skilled staff, resources for record and equipment management, as well as the technology needed for emergency services, are all located within the PECC.

## Fire Dispatching Service Fee

The annual fire service dispatching fee for communities through the PECC is on a per capita basis at a current rate of \$1.50 per person for 2022, with a \$0.25 per year increase over the next two years to a total of \$2.00 per person.

- January 2022 - \$1.50
- January 2023 - \$1.75
- January 2024 - \$2.00

## Enforcement Dispatch Service Fee

The SPSA has implemented a new licensing fee structure based on the number of officers dispatched for the Community Safety Officer Program. The cost for enforcement groups is determined by the number of officers:

- 1-3 officers are \$10,000 per year
- 4-6 officers are \$15,000 per year
- 7-9 officers are \$20,000 per year
- 10-12 officers are \$25,000 per year
- More than 12 officers are \$30,000 per year

For any enforcement group inquiring about these services, the SPSA is available to undertake a client onboarding process to ensure individual emergency response needs are met. During this process, the SPSA provides the client with a full list of services delivered, fee schedules and a contract. We strongly encourage clients to reach out for more detailed information by contacting [Sask911inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Sask911inquiry@gov.sk.ca).

## Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN)

The Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN) is a public safety radio network managed through a partnership between the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA), SaskPower and the RCMP. The PPSTN provides public safety personnel with interoperable radio communications that allows them to communicate with each other during times of emergency. Examples of public safety personnel include fire departments, police services, emergency medical services, health services, conservation officers, highway patrol, corrections, wildlife, First Nations, emergency preparedness and volunteer search and rescue groups, as well as many others. SPSA PPSTN radios are approved for use on the network by the RCMP. All public safety personnel's radios will need to meet to PPSTN requirements and be approved by the RCMP to access the network. The SPSA can provide assistance to agencies looking to purchase their own radio system.

Qualified PPSTN users pay a monthly user fee per radio and will see an increase over the next two years:

- April 2023, rates will be adjusted to \$50 monthly per radio.
- April 2024, rates will be adjusted to a total of \$65 monthly per radio.

Annual licensing fees are \$41 per year, per radio.

For more information on approved radios or application forms, contact Bonnie Longhurst at [bonnie.longhurst@gov.sk.ca](mailto:bonnie.longhurst@gov.sk.ca) or by calling the PPSTN Helpdesk at 1-888-953-3693.

PPSTN radios allow communication to the Provincial Emergency Communications Centre for contracted dispatch service. If you are looking for dispatch services, there is a separate contract available. See information above under PECC.