



Somerset Police Department

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SPD Joins Sheriff and 911 in Using Alert Tone

New technology will aid law enforcement in the way they are notified of serious calls in the future.

Beginning January 24, 2008, the Pulaski County 911 Center will begin using an alert tone to notify responding units of potential emergency calls.

In the past, emergency calls to police agencies have been dispatched the same way as routine, non-emergency calls.

The alert tone is a short, electronic signal sent via the radio frequency that alerts units that an emergency call is being dispatched. It serves as an attention mechanism to gather the attention of officers who may be busy handling non-emergency calls.

The alert tone will help to ensure all on-duty officers hear the emergency call. The practice should decrease officers' response times and increase efficiency during emergency situations.

Emergency calls of shootings, assaults, sex crimes, pursuits, and robberies are among those where the alert tone will be applied.

Officers can also request the alert tone when radio broadcasts are given to update the status of a serious call.