**Use of Radio Codes on School Buses**

Many school districts nation-wide reduce radio traffic, and improve communications, particularly in an emergency by creating radio codes. All radio traffic can be monitored by private individuals that have home units, which causes school personnel to use extreme caution when exchanging private student information over the radio. Often times there is a significant amount of non-essential “chit chat” that clogs up radio frequencies, creates distractions when the radio should actually be used as a professional tool to be used correctly and with discretion.

One thing a district can implement to reduce radio traffic is to use codes. A district can make up their own codes or use the same codes that are used by law enforcement. Using law enforcement radio codes could be advantageous in the event that there is a true emergency because communications could be unknown to a possible perpetrator.

It is recommended that a district have a code for a possible bomb threat. It is also very important to train staff about the importance of ceasing all non-emergent radio traffic, and in the particular case of a bomb threat drivers should immediately stop using their radio and simply follow instructions from dispatch. Radio transmissions have been known to detonate bombs.

Below is a sample of some of the 10 codes used by the Colorado State Patrol that might be applicable to school transportation operations.

**Law Enforcement Commonly Used 10 codes**

10-3 Stop Transmitting

10-4 Acknowledgement

10-5 Relay

10-6 Busy Stand-By

10-7 Out Of Service

10-8 In Service

10-9 Repeat

10-10 Fight In Progress

10-11 Dog Case

10-12 Stand By (stop)

10-13 Weather & Road Report

10-19 Return To ---------

10-20 Location

10-21 Call----By Telephone

10-22 Disregard

10-23 Arrived At Scene

10-24 Assignment Completed

10-25 Report In Person To----

10-31 Crime In Progress

10-32 Man With Gun

10-33 Emergency

10-36 Correct Time

10-43 Information

10-47 Emerg. Road Repairs Needed

10-51 Wrecker Needed

10-52 Ambulance Needed

10-53 Road Blocked

10-64 Attention on the Radio for an Important Broadcast

10-69 Message Received

10-76 En Route

10-77 ETA

10-78 Need Assistance

10-85 Will Be Late