NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths as a Result of Thermal Imaging Camera Use in Close Proximity of Portable Radios

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and SENIOR SERVICES

Public Employee Alert # 19
Safety & Health Bulletin
ATTENTION: All Public Employers
March 2002

This notice is being sent as a result of the potential for accidents and fatalities involving the use of thermal imaging cameras used in close proximity to portable radios being keyed for voice transmission.

Please Ensure that this Warning and the Safe Practices below are Shared With All Operational Personnel

WARNING!
Searches using thermal imaging cameras may be disrupted due to interference form portable radios in the transmit mode.

The Office of Public Employee Occupational Safety and Health has received reports regarding the effect of portable radios in the transmit mode and the proper display of the thermal imaging camera. The interference from the portable radios has varied from a slight distortion of the view screen to a complete blackout of the camera's screen. When the radio transmission has ended, and the transmission key is released, the thermal imaging camera view screen should return to normal.

It is recommended that all equipment effected by this Alert be evaluated before use in an emergency situation. This problem **MAY NOT** occur with all camera and radio combinations. The power output and frequency of the portable radio may also be contributing factors to this problem.

(Continued on Reverse)

Remember

If a thermal imaging camera is in use, and a portable radio is keyed for transmission in close proximity (approximately 1—2 feet apart), you may lose sight of your target. This in turn may impair the success of your search.

To assist in the investigation of these events, please report any incidences of this type to PEOSH. Please include the following:

- Thermal imaging camera manufacturer and model number
- Portable radio manufacturer and model
- Frequency the portable radio was transmitting on
- Approximate distance between the devices
- Description of the interference
- A short description of the event

This information can be provided by calling 609-292-7036 or by faxing a written report to 609-292-3749.

Safe Work Practices
Save Lives

For Additional Information on Public Employee Safety and Health Contact:

Safety Issues, Recordkeeping and Discrimination Complaints
New Jersey Department of Labor
PEOSH Program
PO Box 386
Trenton, NJ 08625-0386
609-292-0767
800-624-1644

Protecting NJ Public Employees
DOL & DHSS
PEOSH

Health Issues
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
PEOSH Program
PO Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
609-984-1863