Falcon Community Services

School Safety Communications Planner

Let's talk about school safety!

Where do you start? In the Front office? The Classrooms? The halls? Recreation areas? Lunchroom, Buses? Historically it has started with a wired classroom intercom system controlled by the front office. That made sense because such systems could be used to broadcast an emergency lockdown when required or for routine communications to individual classrooms.

Unfortunately, that left a lot to be desired. What do you do when there is a disturbance in the office where serious problems are much more likely than in the classroom. How about on the athletic field, new portable classrooms, or controlling bus loading?

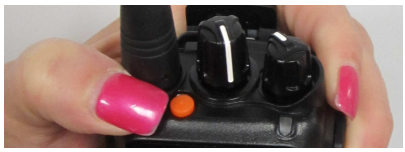
We think there is a better way and that way is wireless! Let us show you the individual components of a wireless intercom system. Compare the cost, convenience, added capability, and safety. We think you will agree that wireless is the way to go. It all starts in the office!

This is the *FastTalk II Desktop Wireless Control Unit*. It is about the size of a desktop calculator. It can selectively call up to 155 devices at the push of a button. If you want to call classroom 125, you just enter the digits "125", press the SEND button, and start talking when the light goes out. Or, you can hit "000" and alert all classrooms and PA system speakers simultaneously. We'll tell you more about those devices shortly. Now we add a transceiver module.

The transceiver module is a VHF or UHF 5 watt (choice of one) transceiver used for communicating with wireless personal communicators (which we will discuss shortly). Only slightly larger than a cigarette package, the transceiver module connects by an accessory cable to the desktop control unit. This keeps desk clutter to a minimum by allowing the transceiver module to be placed under or behind a desk and greatly simplifies service if ever required. The total price for the complete *FastTalk II* with transceiver module and cable is just $1,090.

In the event service is ever required, you simply disconnect the defective unit and replace it (We'll tell you how to do this when we discuss our *TimeShare* service program). Generally, no outside antenna is required. This can be determined by an on-site evaluation before purchase. If an external outside antenna is required, we will work with your facilities personnel to get it installed. You'll need an FCC operating license to use this system. The cost is $600, which is good for a 10-year authorization. We now have a total investment of just $1,690 in the front office.

Now, we are going to the classroom. Instead of a wall mounted panel, we are going to equip each teacher with a two-way personal wireless device that goes where she or he goes. This is the *CS100A* wireless personal intercom. Technically, it is a 4-watt UHF personal 2-way radio with some very unique features. It weighs in at a mere 8 ounces, yet it is MIL Standard rated with an IP67 rating for maximum resistance to dust and water. A low profile 3" antenna allows it to be easily worn on a belt or carried in a purse. It is only 3.75" high x 2.1" wide x 1.26" thick. That's important, but the REAL uniqueness of the *CS100A* is functionality.



Each *CS100A* can be assigned a unique classroom/teacher receive ID code as well as a common ALL CALL code. This means you can call a single classroom/teacher or everyone at once. Better yet, an emergency call button on the top of the radio can be used to silently call for assistance without saying a word! A pre-recorded message with the classroom/teacher ID is automatically transmitted when the emergency call button is activated. A typical message would be something like *Assistance needed in classroom 125*. This message is normally broadcast to the front office only although other configurations are possible. The price is right, just $169 including programming, shipping, and inclusion of our exclusive 3R service program (more about this shortly).

For hallways, recreational areas, lunchrooms, and other areas where large groups of students and facility may be gathered, we offer a companion product known as the *LoudMouth*! This is a completed self-contained wireless PA that just plugs into an AC outlet. It can be programmed to receive ALL CALL messages from the office, or even *CS100A* personal radios if desired. The *LoudMouth* can be easily installed by your maintenance personnel in either single speaker (unidirectional output) or dual speaker (bi-directional output models). The price is just $698 for the single speaker model or $748 for the dual speaker model.

As you can see, the cost of equipping classroom/teachers as well as covering large areas will typically cost about half (or less) than a standard wired system, but that is only part of the story. Not only does wireless give you mobility and more flexibility, there is the issue of OPERATING COST where wireless has a huge advantage over wired systems. See info4u.us/3Rinfo.pdf for additional information. Maintenance of the *CS100A* is simple, fast and affordable. If you ever have a problem, the MOST you can pay for a repair is $89 and that covers the cost of any repair, upgrade to latest factory standards, replacement of items like antennas, and clips, as well as a new housing if required, plus a new battery, and shipping/delivery cost as applicable. Best of all, you will typically have a replacement radio within 72 hours or less. Maintenance on the *FastTalk II* front office equipment and the *LoudMouth* unit is equally simple using our exclusive *TimeShare* maintenance plan. You pay just $90 initially to cover enrollment for either the *FastTalk II* or the *LoudMouth*. If you have a malfunction, you pay just $45 for an exchange unit, cost of repair, and shipping charges. Nothing else even comes close! Additional information is available at info4u.us/TimeShare.pdf.

Unlike a wired intercom system, a wireless system has some other major benefits. For example, school bus loading. The same radios used by classroom teachers and/or administrative staff can be used for bus loading activities. Once you've used radios for bus loading coordination, you'll wonder how you ever got along without them! And that's not all.....

If your buses are already equipped with 2-way radio, you can add the transportation channel for communicating directly with the buses (through the bus shop repeater) while they are on their routes. Coordination of wrong kid on right bus, missed stop, and other "routine" emergencies can be much better corrected which makes for happier students, parents, and school administrators. The *CS100A* radios are compatible with most analog VHF or UHF bus radio communications systems. Digital models are optionally available.

Speaking of compatibility with other radios, how about direct connection to your School Resource Officer (SRO) or internal emergency response team? The CS100 has multi-channel and scan capability. That means that other radio frequencies within the same frequency band (VHF or UHF as applicable) can be programmed into your radios for direct communications with participating law enforcement agencies.

BTW, we have a low cost dual band radio that can communicate on both VHF and UHF frequencies. Normally, UHF is the preferred operating band for inside buildings while VHF is the choice for wide area law enforcement communications. The solution is a dual band radio. The price is right - just $149, and it qualifies for service under our 3R service program. See info4u.us/MK-II.pdf for more information.

If you are unfamiliar with the procedures necessary to coordinate direct communications with law enforcement, we have significant experience in this area, which we are willing to share. As a general rule, law enforcement officials prefer not to allow direct access to their operating frequencies by non-law enforcement officers. They are generally agreeable to a push button activated device that sends a pre-recorded message. This takes the emotion and anxiety out of an emergency situation. For more information on setting up an agreement with local law enforcement agencies, see info4u.us/partners. For additional information or a demonstration just give us a call at 800.389.2611.

This information is a part of a total school safety program that addresses a number of alternatives not discussed herein. If you would like to review the total school safety planner, please visit info4u.us/Schoolsl-BigPicture.pdf or visit our school safety web page at SafeSchools.us.