I'm not a robot

16th Sep,2023 Police scanner frequencies include law enforcement, fire departments, and other public services. Finding the exact station you want might be confusing, though, and could lead to you missing out entirely on crucial transmissions. We've been using scanners for years now, so we've put together a quick guide on everything you need to know about police scanner frequencies – including how to listen to them even without a police scanner device. How to find police scanner frequencies? One way to find frequencies is by asking a retailer of police scanners. Local directories also help you find the information you need, since the frequency depends on which county or state you live in. But by far, the quickest and most accurate route is through the internet. There are many tools online that can help you find scanner frequencies through states, metro areas, and zip codes. You can also search for trunked radio information like talk groups in your area. Still, we find that inputting your county or state on a website's search function is the easiest way to do it. If you want, there are apps for these too. Just enter your state, city, or county to get the results and listen to transmissions in your area. What frequencies do scanners use? A scanner radio uses several frequencies, and as mentioned, a common way to find them is by using a local directory. Here are some common ones: 46: This is the inter-department emergency frequency for communications by both local and state forces. 160: This frequency is open to all departments, facilitating inter-department emergency communication in times of search and rescue operations. 475: This is a more common frequency where many emergency communications of state and local officers happen. There are many other frequencies especially depending on which area you live in. For instance, you'll find many sets of frequencies in the state of Alabama. If you want to listen to Dallas County frequencies, you can tune in to: 80000: The sheriff dispatch, RM-type with WPUF523 license. It's the Dallas SO 1. 50000: The Fire VFD dispatch, RM-type with KNAU435 license. It's the line of the Dallas County Fire Department. Similarly, there are three more for Dallas County, and three more for Selma. As you can see, each frequency has a license and many have tones as well (like 110.9 PL for the Dallas SO 1. These are all mostly FM or FMN. Note that police scanners are devices that "scan" and not impose audio on airwaves themselves. That makes it tricky to say "what scanner frequencies do law enforcement officers use" because they're simply listening in. If you're interested to know about object-oriented scanning and which models use it, see a short discussion on our Whistler TRX-1 review. How do you program police frequencies? Programming the frequencies for a scanner is pretty much building a functional superb scanner yourself. The first thing you need to do is identify the channels that you want to listen to in your area. Tuning is important as well – you don't want to capture all the signals in your county. Also, you can only listen to local area frequencies because scanners utilize radio waves. Once you have searched the area (again, many online sources help you find frequencies by state, city, metro area, zip code, etc.), you need to select the frequency you want to listen to. This is the main part of programming, and we'll get to it in a bit. First make sure that the scanner is plugged in and connect the antenna to it. Then, find the programming button on your device. "Prog" or "PGM" are usual labels of the programming button. Press (or press and hold, depending on what the user guide says). Channel programming will then be enabled, and you'll know this when a "CH" flashes on the display. After that, now is the time to input the channel number. This is where your frequencies will be stored, and you can also organize it in whatever way you want. To keep it simple, you can assign one channel for police, one for fire, another for emergency services, and so on. Once you've put in the channel number, you can now enter the actual frequency number to start your search. This is a five- or six-digit number with a decimal point, and that's something you should note as well. For instance, the frequency number for the Skywarn District in East Tennessee is 145.470. In that case, you want to press "1-4-5-decimal point-4-7-0". Once that's done, just press enter and you are good to go. Can you get in trouble listening to police frequencies? In the United States, different jurisdictions have different laws. Police scanners are generally allowed, but the use of a scanner to search for frequencies is restricted in five states if you're on an automobile. If you're in another country, you will have different laws about police scanners as well. For example, in Canada, it's legal to install and use any kind of radio that can receive the broadcast – except for private information. In Australia, if a transmission is not "telecommunication," you can have a scanner and listen to every channel in your local area. For your safety, please check your state laws to know specific information. However, know that it's always a federal crime to listen to phone calls, regardless of what area you're in. If you don't have a physical scanner, you can also use a smartphone app that acts as a normal scanner. Read our comparison of the best ones here: How can you listen to police frequencies? You can listen to police frequencies simply by programming your scanner. You just need to look for the specific frequency or frequencies that you want to listen to in your local area. For that, you just need to use the internet, directories, or the retailer's database. If you have all your frequencies listed, simply program those frequencies in your scanner with the steps we've discussed above. Once that's done, you can now listen to communications across your state in frequencies like fire, EMS, and aviation. To make your listening experience smooth and static-free, make sure you also got a proper antenna installed in your scanner. Your scanner's factory antenna might not do the job, so we've also listed the best police scanner antennas for you. If you don't want to use a scanner or if you don't have a scanner right now, there are also many websites that feature live audio. It's probably not real-time, as there might be a lag between the signal reception, conversion to web audio, and live uploading – which the server might limit if there are too many requests. How to hack police frequencies? This is not illegal. You can hack frequencies using devices other than scanners. When you do that, these devices then become police scanners themselves – it's as simple as that. Imagine listening to a police radio frequency in your area about local crime on your scanner. It's legal and it's simple. Now, what if you don't have a police scanner radio to listen to these frequencies? Fortunately, you can use other devices to hack into the spectrum beyond FM. What you have is a radio that you built yourself. An additional perk is it might double as something else too, like a simple calculator. If this is something you want to try, all you need to do is explore the VHF and UHF bands. This will enable you to listen to coded audio data. You can then decode these audio signals and effectively make out what the police are saying about crime in your local area. William Johnson is the owner and founder of RatedRadarDetector.org. He writes about car accessories, with his passion stemming from a deep enthusiasm for all things automotive. His website, RRD, focuses on in-depth reviews of car accessories to help people find the best and latest products in the market. Police scanner frequencies are specific radio frequencies used by law enforcement agencies to communicate with their officers and dispatchers. These frequencies allow anyone with a compatible scanner or receiver to listen in on the conversations between police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other emergency personnel. They provide real-time updates on incidents, emergencies, and public safety information within a given area. Each police department or agency operates on its own set of frequencies, which are usually allocated by local or federal regulatory bodies. These frequencies are typically divided into different channels or bands, each serving a specific purpose. Common channels include dispatch, tactical operations, and mutual aid. They may also include dedicated channels for specific divisions such as traffic, narcotics, or special response teams. The frequencies used by police departments can vary depending on factors such as geographic location, agency size, and available resources. In the United States, most law enforcement agencies use frequencies within the VHF (Very High Frequency) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency) bands. However, some agencies may also utilize other bands such as the 700 MHz or 800 MHz bands. It's important to note that not all police scanner frequencies are accessible to the general public. Some agencies may encrypt their communications or use digital trunking systems to prevent unauthorized access. However, many agencies still use traditional analog systems that can be monitored by hobbyists, journalists, and others interested in staying informed about local public safety activities. Listening to police scanner frequencies can provide valuable insights into community safety, emergency response efforts, and ongoing criminal investigations. It allows the public to stay informed about incidents happening in their area and can help create a sense of awareness and preparedness. However, it's crucial to use this information responsibly and to respect the privacy and sensitivity of the conversations being transmitted. Why Do You Want to Find Police Scanner Frequencies? There are several reasons why individuals might want to find police scanner frequencies, ranging from personal interest to practical purposes. Here are a few common motivations: Stay Informed: Listening to police scanner frequencies allows you to stay informed about local incidents, emergencies, and public safety concerns in real-time. It provides a window into the activities and challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, firefighters, and other first responders in your community. Community Safety: Knowing what's happening in your area can help you take precautions and stay safe. By tuning into police scanner frequencies, you can be aware of accidents, traffic congestion, severe weather warnings, and other events that may impact the safety of you and your loved ones. Journalism and Reporting: Journalists and reporters often rely on police scanner frequencies to gather information for news stories. It allows them to cover breaking news, crime incidents, and other events in real-time, providing accurate and timely reports to the public. Emergency Preparedness: Listening to police scanner frequencies can help you prepare for emergencies. By understanding how emergency services operate, you can gain insights into their response strategies, evacuation plans, and resources available during crises. Curiosity and Hobby: Some people are simply interested in the workings of law enforcement agencies and emergency services. Listening to police scanner frequencies can be a fascinating hobby, providing a glimpse into the day-to-day activities of those who serve and protect. While there are many legitimate reasons for wanting to find police scanner frequencies, it's essential to approach this information responsibly and ethically. It's crucial to respect the privacy and sensitivity of the discussions taking place and to refrain from using the acquired information for any illegal or malicious purposes. Additionally, always ensure that you comply with local regulations and laws governing the use of scanners and monitoring equipment. Learn the Basics of Police Radio Systems Before you start searching for police scanner frequencies, it's important to familiarize yourself with the basics of police radio systems. Understanding how these systems operate will help you navigate through the frequencies and effectively listen to the broadcasts. Here are some key concepts to know: Frequency Bands: Police radio systems operate on specific frequency bands, such as VHF and UHF. Research which frequency bands are commonly used by law enforcement agencies in your area. Channels and Codes: Police radio systems often have various channels or talk groups assigned for different purposes, such as dispatch, tactical operations, or specialized units. Additionally, agencies may use codes or signals to convey information efficiently. Trunking Systems: Some larger police departments use trunking systems, which dynamically assign frequencies for different conversations. This can make it more challenging to tune in with a traditional scanner, as the frequencies change frequently. Encryption: Some agencies have encrypted their radio communications, meaning they cannot be readily monitored by scanners. Ensure you are aware of any encryption practices in your area. Scanner Compatibility: Not all scanners are created equal. Ensure that your scanner is compatible with the frequency bands and trunking systems used by your local law enforcement agencies. Learning about these basics will give you a solid foundation when searching for police scanner frequencies in your area. It will allow you to effectively navigate through the available channels and ensure you can listen in on the conversations you are interested in. Keep in mind that regulations and technology can vary from region to region, so it's essential to research the specific practices and requirements in your area. Additionally, always use the information obtained through scanning responsibly and ethically, respecting the privacy and sensitivity of the discussions. Read Local Regulations and Laws Before you start actively searching for police scanner frequencies, it's crucial to familiarize yourself with the local regulations and laws governing the use of scanners and monitoring equipment. Different regions may have specific rules regarding the types of equipment allowed, frequency usage restrictions, and privacy considerations. Here's what you need to know: Frequency Licensing: Determine if your local jurisdiction requires individuals to obtain a license or permit to own or operate a scanner. Some areas may have specific requirements or restrictions on using certain frequency bands. Encryption and Privacy Laws: Understand the laws regarding the interception and monitoring of communications. Some regions prohibit the unauthorized use of scanners to listen to encrypted or private communications, while others may have stricter laws regarding the use of intercepted information. Emergency Response Protocols: Familiarize yourself with any regulations or guidelines that apply to listening to and disseminating public safety information. It's crucial to act responsibly and avoid causing any interference or disruption to emergency responses. Respecting Privacy: Be mindful of the privacy of individuals involved in the radio communications. Avoid sharing sensitive or personal information obtained from scanner broadcasts, as it could infringe upon privacy rights or compromise ongoing investigations. It is important to note that laws and regulations can change over time, so it's advisable to regularly check for any updates or amendments to the local legal framework. Check with local legal authorities, such as your country's telecommunications regulatory agency or law enforcement agencies, to ensure you are in compliance with the applicable regulations. Remember, responsible use of police scanner frequencies is paramount. By adhering to local regulations and respecting the privacy of individuals involved, you can enjoy listening to scanner broadcasts within the confines of the law and ethically. Use Online Resources and Databases One of the easiest and most convenient ways to find police scanner frequencies is by utilizing online resources and databases. The internet offers a wealth of information and tools that can help you in your search. Here are a few online resources to consider: Government Websites: Many government agencies or regulatory bodies provide information online about frequency allocations for different public safety services. Check the website of your local telecommunications agency or police department for any available frequency lists or guidelines. Hobbyist Websites: There are numerous websites and forums dedicated to hobbyist scanner enthusiasts. These platforms often share frequency lists, user-generated content, and tips on finding local scanner frequencies. Scanner Apps and Websites: Several mobile applications and websites provide real-time scanner feeds from various jurisdictions. These apps allow you to listen to live scanner broadcasts and may include features to search for frequencies based on location or agency. Scanner Databases: Online databases specifically cater to scanner enthusiasts by compiling and organizing scanner frequencies from around the world. These databases often include search features, community-contributed content, and additional resources to enhance your scanning experience. When utilizing online resources, it's important to cross-reference and verify the information obtained. Frequencies may change or become outdated, so double-check with official sources or local scanner communities to ensure accuracy. Additonally, keep in mind that the availability of scanner frequencies can vary depending on your location. Some jurisdictions may encrypt their communications or use digital trunking systems, which may limit the accessibility of certain frequencies. Stay aware of any encryption practices in your area and adjust your search accordingly. By leveraging online resources and databases, you can easily access a wealth of information and find the police scanner frequencies you are looking for. Remember to use these resources responsibly and in compliance with local regulations and laws. Use a Frequency Directory or Guidebook If you prefer a more traditional approach to finding police scanner frequencies, using a frequency directory or guidebook can be a valuable resource. These printed or digital publications compile and categorize relevant frequencies for different agencies and regions. Here's how you can use them to find the frequencies you are interested in: Research and Purchase: Look for frequency directories or guidebooks specifically designed for scanner enthusiasts. These resources are often available online or at hobbyist stores. Consider reading reviews or seeking recommendations to ensure you choose a reputable and up-to-date publication. Localize the Information: Frequency directories may cover a wide geographic area. Look for sections or chapters that specifically focus on your region or city. This will help you find the frequencies used by local law enforcement agencies in your area. Understand the Layout: Frequency directories typically organize information in a structured manner, such as by agency, frequency band, or channel. Familiarize yourself with the layout of the publication to quickly navigate and find the frequencies you need. Keep Up with Updates: Radio frequencies can change over time, so it's important to stay updated. Some frequency directories provide ongoing updates through companion websites or additional publications. Regularly check for any addendums or new editions to ensure you have the most current information. Supplement with Online Resources: While frequency directories can be reliable sources, they may not always capture the most recent changes. Supplement your search by cross-referencing the information from the directory with online resources or official websites to ensure accuracy. Using a frequency directory or guidebook can provide a structured and comprehensive approach to finding police scanner frequencies. They are particularly useful for those who prefer offline resources or want to have a physical reference during their scanning sessions. Remember to use these resources responsibly and ethically. Respect the privacy of individuals involved in radio communications and comply with any regulations or laws regarding the use of scanner equipment and monitoring. Use Mobile Applications and Websites In today's digital age, mobile applications and websites have become popular tools for accessing police scanner frequencies. They offer convenience and flexibility, allowing you to find and listen to scanner broadcasts right from your smartphone or computer. Here's how you can leverage these resources: Scanner Apps: There are numerous mobile applications available for both iOS and Android devices that provide access to live scanner feeds from around the world. These apps often allow you to search for frequencies based on location, agency, or keyword. They may also offer additional features such as recording, playback, and the ability to save favorite channels. Online Scanner Websites: Several websites offer live scanner feeds streamed directly on their platforms. These websites typically categorize feeds by location, agency, or type of incident. They may also include additional information such as incident summaries or related news articles. Location-Based Services: Some mobile apps or websites utilize location data to provide scanner feeds specific to your area. This feature helps you easily access local frequencies and stay informed about incidents happening in your vicinity. Community and User-Generated Content: Many scanner apps and websites have features that allow users to contribute channels, share information, and interact with a community of fellow scanner enthusiasts. This can be a great way to discover new frequencies, exchange tips, and stay updated on the latest developments in the scanning community. Official Agency Apps: Some law enforcement agencies have developed their own mobile applications that provide access to their scanner frequencies. Check if your local police department offers an official app that allows you to listen in on their communications. Mobile applications and websites offer a user-friendly and accessible way to explore and listen to police scanner frequencies. They keep you connected to real-time broadcasts, allowing you to stay informed about local incidents, emergencies, and public safety concerns with just a few taps or clicks. Ensure that you download reputable applications and use trusted websites to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of the information provided. Remember to use these resources responsibly and comply with any regulations or laws governing the use of scanner applications and online platforms. Always respect the privacy and sensitivity of the conversations you are listening to, and avoid using the acquired information for any illegal or malicious purposes. Join Online Communities and Forums Online communities and forums dedicated to scanner enthusiasts are vibrant spaces that offer valuable resources, knowledge sharing, and a sense of camaraderie among fellow scanner hobbyists. By joining these communities, you can tap into a wealth of information and connect with like-minded individuals. Here's how you can benefit from joining online communities and forums: Knowledge Sharing: Online communities provide a platform for members to share their insights, experiences, and expertise in finding and monitoring police scanner frequencies. You can learn from seasoned enthusiasts who have a deep understanding of radio systems, frequency allocation, and local procedures. Frequency Recommendations: Fellow community members can offer recommendations for scanner frequencies specific to your location or areas of interest. They can share up-to-date information about channels commonly used by law enforcement agencies, emergency services, and other public safety organizations in your region. Discussions and Q&A Sessions: Engaging in discussions and question-and-answer sessions allows you to seek advice, clarify doubts, and gain a better understanding of scanner-related topics. You can benefit from the collective knowledge and expertise of the community, improving your scanning skills and staying updated on the latest developments. Discover New Resources: Online communities are often a rich source of information about frequency directories, mobile apps, websites, and other tools or resources that can aid your scanner activities. Members often share helpful tips and recommendations, helping you enhance your scanning experience. Community Events and Meetups: Some online scanner communities organize events, meetups, or conferences where enthusiasts gather to exchange ideas, showcase equipment, and share their experiences. These events can further expand your network and provide valuable insights into the scanner hobby. When participating in online communities and forums, remember to follow the community guidelines, be respectful, and contribute positively. Engage in meaningful discussions, share your knowledge, and be open to learning from others. By actively participating in these communities, you can build connections, broaden your understanding of police scanner frequencies, and stay connected with the evolving scanner hobby. However, it's important to remember that the information shared in online communities should always be verified and cross-referenced with official sources to ensure accuracy and compliance with local regulations and laws. Use Radio Scanners and Scanning Apps Radio scanners and scanning apps are essential tools for listening to police scanner frequencies. They allow you to tune into radio broadcasts and monitor communications between law enforcement agencies, firefighters, paramedics, and other emergency responders. Here's how you can use radio scanners and scanning apps to access the frequencies you're interested in: Radio Scanners: Dedicated radio scanners are hardware devices designed specifically for scanning radio frequencies. These scanners often have advanced features such as frequency searching, memory banks for storing favorite channels, and customizable settings to enhance your scanning experience. They offer greater range and sensitivity compared to scanning apps on smartphones. Scanning Apps: Scanning apps are smartphone applications that turn your mobile device into a portable scanner. These apps utilize the built-in radio receiver in some smartphones or use internet streaming to provide access to live scanner feeds from around the world. They often include features such as location-based scanning, recording capabilities, and the ability to share interesting findings with others. Programming the Frequencies: To listen to specific police scanner frequencies, you'll need to program them into your radio scanner or scanning app. Frequencies can be obtained from online resources, frequency directories, community recommendations, or official sources. Follow the instructions provided by your scanner or app to enter the frequencies accurately. Explore the Channels: Once you have programmed the frequencies, you can explore the different channels available. Listen to the conversations between dispatchers and officers, gain insights into emergency response operations, and stay updated on public safety developments in your area. Adjusting Settings: Radio scanners and scanning apps often allow you to adjust settings to improve the listening experience. Experiment with settings such as squelch, volume, and scan speed to find the optimal settings for your environment and preferences. Both radio scanners and scanning apps offer unique benefits, so consider your individual needs and budget when choosing the right option for you. Radio scanners provide a dedicated scanning device with advanced features, while scanning apps offer convenience and portability with the use of your smartphone. Remember to use radio scanners and scanning apps responsibly and in compliance with local regulations and laws. Respect the privacy and sensitivity of the conversations you're listening to, and avoid using the acquired information for any illegal or malicious purposes. Use Professional Programming Services For those who are not familiar with programming frequencies into radio scanners or scanning apps, or prefer a hassle-free solution, professional programming services can be a convenient option. These services provide expertise and assistance in programming the desired police scanner frequencies into your scanning device or application. Here's how you can benefit from using professional programming services: Expertise and Accuracy: Professional programming services have the knowledge and experience to accurately program the frequencies you want to monitor. They are familiar with the technical aspects of radio scanners and scanning apps, ensuring that the frequencies are entered correctly. Time-saving: Programming frequencies can be a time-consuming task, especially for beginners. By using professional programming services, you can save time and effort that would otherwise be spent researching and programming the frequencies yourself. Personalization: Professional programmers often work closely with clients to understand their specific scanning needs and preferences. They can customize the programming to include the desired agencies, channels, and additional features based on your requirements. Comprehensive Coverage: Professional programming services typically have access to comprehensive frequency databases and resources. They can ensure that you have access to a wide range of frequencies relevant to your location or interests. Technical Support: Professional programmers can provide ongoing technical support and assistance with any questions or issues you may encounter with your scanning device or application. They can help troubleshoot problems, offer guidance, and keep you updated on any changes or updates in the frequency landscape. When choosing a professional programming service, ensure that you select a reputable provider with the necessary expertise in programming scanner frequencies. Check reviews, testimonials, and their track record to ensure a reliable and trustworthy service. Remember to use the programmed frequencies responsibly and in compliance with local regulations and laws. Respect the privacy and sensitivity of the conversations you may listen to and avoid using the acquired information for any illegal or malicious purposes. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Here are answers to some commonly asked questions about finding and listening to police scanner frequencies: Q: Can anyone listen to police scanner frequencies? A: In many countries, the use of police scanners is legal, and anyone can listen to public safety frequencies. However, it's crucial to check your local regulations and laws regarding scanner use, as some jurisdictions may have specific restrictions or require licensing. Q: Are all police scanner frequencies accessible to the public? A: Not all police scanner frequencies are accessible to the general public. Some agencies encrypt their communications or use digital trunking systems, preventing unauthorized access. However, many agencies still use traditional analog systems that can be monitored by hobbyists, journalists, and others interested in public safety activities. Q: Are there online resources to find police scanner frequencies? A: Yes, there are various online resources, including government websites, hobbyist websites, scanning apps, and scanner databases. These resources provide frequency lists, live scanner feeds, community-generated content, and frequency search functionalities to help you find the frequencies you're interested in. Q: How can I ensure accuracy when programming frequencies? A: To ensure accuracy when programming frequencies, cross-reference the information from different sources such as official websites, frequency directories, and online communities. Double-check the entered frequencies and, if possible, use radios or scanning apps with features that validate the frequencies for accuracy. Q: Can I use mobile apps to listen to police scanner frequencies? A: Yes, there are scanning apps available for smartphones that allow you to listen to police scanner frequencies. These apps provide live scanner feeds or utilize the built-in radio receiver found in some smartphones. However, be sure to check if the app is legal and comply with any regulations or laws regarding scanner app use in your region. It's essential to familiarize yourself with the specific regulations and laws in your area to ensure that you are using police scanner frequencies in compliance with local guidelines. Additionally, always respect the privacy and sensitivity of the conversations being transmitted and use the acquired information responsibly. Have peace of mind knowing you'll detect police activity and stay ticket-free when you have one of these police radar detectors in your vehicle. A police scanner is a radio receiver that can tune into the frequencies used by law enforcement agencies. This allows users to listen to live radio traffic, including calls for service, descriptions of suspects, and updates on ongoing investigations. Police scanners are a popular tool for amateur radio enthusiasts, journalists, and anyone else who wants to stay informed about what is happening in their community. In the United States, police scanners typically operate on frequencies in the VHF (very high frequency) and UHF (ultra-high frequency) bands. The specific frequencies used by law enforcement agencies vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. In Carol Stream, Illinois, police scanners can be tuned to frequencies in the 800 MHz band. To use a police scanner, you will need a scanner receiver, an antenna, and a power source. Scanner receivers are available in a variety of models, ranging from simple hand-held units to more complex desktop models. Antennas are also available in a variety of sizes and types. The best antenna for you will depend on the frequencies you want to listen to and the environment in which you will be using the scanner. Once you have your scanner receiver and antenna, you can start listening to police traffic. To do this, you will need to tune your scanner receiver to the frequency of the law enforcement agency you want to listen to. Once you are tuned in, you will be able to hear all of the radio traffic from that agency. Police scanners can be a valuable tool for staying informed about what is happening in your community. However, it is important to remember that police scanners are not a substitute for official law enforcement channels. If you see something suspicious, it is always best to call 911. Prices were accurate at the time this article was published but may change over time. The product experts at Reviewed have all your shopping needs covered. Follow Reviewed on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, or Flipboard for the latest deals, product reviews, and more. Adam Reeder Contributor Adam Reeder is a freelance writer, consumer advocate, and unapologetic watch geek. See all of Adam Reeder's reviews Our team is here to help you buy the best stuff and love what you own. Our writers, editors, and experts obsess over the products we cover to make sure you're confident and satisfied. Have a different opinion about something we recommend? Email us and we'll compare notes. Shoot us an email Knowing what's happening with emergency services and public safety is key today. Listening to police scanner frequencies helps you stay updated on emergencies. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) makes sure these frequencies are used right for public safety. With tools like the Uniden Bearcat SDS200, you can listen to many police scanner frequencies. This keeps you informed about emergency services near you. It's important to know about police scanner frequencies if you care about public safety and emergency services. By listening to these frequencies, you can learn a lot about emergency services. The Uniden Bearcat SDS200 is a great tool for this, letting you scan lots of channels fast. Police communications use different radio bands for clear and quick talks. The main ones are VHF (Very High Frequency) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency). VHF has low band (25-50 MHz) and high band (150-174 MHz). UHF goes from 450-470 MHz. These bands serve various needs like dispatch, tactical work, and urgent calls. For instance, VHF low band is good for rural areas. VHF high band is better for city areas. UHF is mainly for tactical and emergency talks. Radio BandFrequency RangeUsageVHF Low Band25-50 MHzRural areas, dispatchVHF High Band150-174 MHzUrban areas, dispatchUHF450-470 MHzTactical operations, emergency communications The National Scanner Frequency Guide lists key frequencies for police, fire, and emergencies. Knowing about police radio bands helps us see how vital clear communication is in emergencies. Knowing the common police scanner frequencies is key to staying informed in major cities. These frequencies help emergency services talk to each other and handle emergencies. Some, like VHF high band frequencies, are the same for everyone, making it easier for agencies to work together. In the United States, 39.460 MHz and 45.880 MHz are often used for police scanners. The VTAC channels (Tac 1 to Tac 7) run from 155.7525 MHz to 159.4725 MHz, using 156.7 Hz CTCSS for simplex operations. UHF MED channels, used in emergencies, have different paired repeater frequencies. VLAW31 and VLAW32 are the main nationwide law enforcement frequencies, at 155.4750 MHz and 155.4825 MHz. Big cities like Los Angeles, Boston, New York, and Chicago use UHF (450-470 MHz) and UHF-T (470-512 MHz) systems for public safety. For UHF public safety interoperability, a 156.7 Hz CTCSS tone is recommended for transmit, with CSQ as the receiver setting. Knowing these frequencies helps people stay updated on emergency services in their area. It's important to remember that using police scanner frequencies might be restricted in some places. Always check with local authorities before using a police scanner. Police communications come in two main types: digital and analog. Digital systems, like P25, are more secure and efficient. They use encryption and priority messaging. Analog systems, on the other hand, use traditional signals. They can be more prone to interference and eavesdropping. But, they are often cheaper to set up and keep running. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) makes sure both types use the right frequencies. Digital systems, including P25, have many advantages. These include: Improved security through encryption Increased efficiency with priority messaging Better resistance to interference Ability to transmit data and voice communications simultaneously Trunked radio networks are a key part of digital communications. They let many agencies share a few frequencies. This makes communication more efficient and reduces the need for many channels. Many trunked radios work with both analog and digital signals. But, you need a scanner that can handle trunked frequencies. System TypeKey FeaturesDigital Police CommunicationsEncryption, priority messaging, resistance to interferenceAnalog Police CommunicationsLess expensive, traditional analog signalsP25 Digital SystemsSecure, efficient, priority messaging Digital systems, like P25, have big advantages over analog ones. As the FCC pushes for digital systems, many places will switch. This means we'll need better digital scanners. To start using a police scanner, you need to know what equipment is required. A police scanner lets you listen to radio frequencies used by emergency services. When picking a scanner, think about the type, antenna, and other needed gear. The Uniden Bearcat SDS200 Police Scanner is a top choice. It's a digital scanner that can pick up both digital and analog signals. Digital scanners are key for APCO-25 systems and offer many channels. Look for features like fast scan speed, search mode, and GPS. Here are some important features to consider in scanner equipment: Frequency scan speed: Choose a scanner that scans over 30 channels per second. Search mode: Most scanners come with search mode. It helps find channels, including hidden ones. GPS capability: Some scanners have GPS. They need a GPS device to update frequencies as you move. Also, check out this table for a comparison of popular scanners: Scanner ModelFrequency RangeChannel CapacityUniden Bearcat SDS20025-1300 MHzUnlimitedWhistler WS104025-1300 MHz1800 Knowing what scanner equipment you need and picking the right one, you can keep up with emergency services in your area. Understanding legal rules for using scanners is key. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) controls radio frequencies in the U.S. The 1934 Communications Act says information on public airwaves isn't private. This makes it legal to own and use police scanners in the U.S. But, some radio bands are off-limits on scanners. This includes cell phones and military bands, where privacy is assumed. Laws about using police scanners differ by state. They fall into two main areas: using a scanner while driving and using it to help commit a crime. States that ban using scanners while driving include: Florida Indiana Kentucky New York Minnesota States that limit scanner use for crime include California, New Jersey, and Michigan. Breaking these laws can lead to fines or jail time. Knowing these rules helps avoid trouble and ensures safe scanner use. StateRestrictionPenaltyFloridaUse while drivingVariesCaliforniaUse in furtherance of a crimeUp to 1 year in jail and a $1,000 fineRhode IslandUse in furtherance of a crimeUp to 5 years in prison and a $5,000 fine Having a well-organized channel structure is key for emergency response. A police scanner helps users stay updated on emergencies. It's important to sort channels by their importance and how often they're used. A good plan should mix local and national channels. For example, the National Guard's emergency frequency (34.90 MHz) and FEMA's disaster relief channel (138.225 MHz) are important. Also, include channels for local authorities like police and fire departments. Here's a table with some examples: ChannelFrequencyDescriptionNational Guard Emergency34.90 MHzNationwide emergency channel for the National GuardFEMA Disaster Relief138.225 MHzPrimary FEMA channel for disaster relief operationsLocal Police Emergency155.475 MHzLocal and state police emergency communication channel Organizing emergency channels well lets users quickly get important info. They can then respond to emergencies fast. This way, they use their police scanner to stay informed and ready. Programming your scanner for local departments is key. It's a complex task, but with the right tools, it's easier. Local frequency guides and online resources can help you set up your police scanner. To begin, find the local frequencies used by your departments. Websites like Radio Reference offer a vast database of radio frequencies. Just enter your zip code to find frequencies for police, fire, and emergency services. This makes it easy to program your scanner. After finding the frequencies, set up priority channels. This organizes channels by importance. For instance, you can prioritize local police, then fire and emergency services. Creating scanner banks is another step. A bank groups related channels together. You can have one for police, another for fire, and more. This makes switching between channels easy. Following these steps and using the right resources, you can program your scanner for local departments. This is vital for staying informed about your community. With the right knowledge, you can receive signals from local law enforcement and stay updated on local events. Police scanner frequencies vary by region. This is because government agencies regulate radio frequencies differently around the world. In the U.S., there are four main frequency bands: low-band VHF, high-band VHF, low-band UHF, and high-band UHF. Knowing these variations helps with communication and staying updated on emergencies. Some frequencies are used nationwide for emergencies or between agencies. For example, the high-band VHF range from 169-172 MHz has eight frequencies for public use. These are called "traveling frequencies" and work well across the U.S. The 700/800 MHz band is also used for public safety, with the 800 MHz part (806-824 MHz and 851-869 MHz) set aside for this purpose. To understand these variations, it's key to know the different frequency bands and their uses. Here's a table that shows the frequency bands and their uses: Frequency BandUseLow-band VHF (49-108 MHz)Emergency communications, inter-agency communicationsHigh-band VHF (169-216 MHz)Public safety radio systems, traveling frequenciesLow-band UHF (450-806 MHz)Public safety radio systems, commercial communications servicesHigh-band UHF (900-952 MHz)Two-way voice communication, commercial communications services Understanding regional frequency variations and police scanner frequencies helps us navigate radio communications better. It's vital for personal or professional use. Knowing these variations ensures effective communication and safety. To avoid signal interference with a police scanner, knowing the common causes is key. The Uniden Bearcat SDS200 Police Scanner is top-notch, but interference can happen. It's important to understand and prevent it. Interference often comes from other wireless devices and physical barriers. To fight it, try moving the scanner, using an external antenna, or filtering signals. These steps can help keep your scanner clear. Other wireless devices, such as cordless phones and microwaves Physical barriers, such as hills and buildings Electrical interference from nearby power lines or electrical devices Knowing the causes of interference helps prevent it. This is vital for those who need their scanner for work, like emergency responders. By taking steps to prevent interference, you can improve your scanner's performance. To boost reception and fight interference, consider a signal amplifier or noise-reducing filter. These tools can strengthen the signal and cut down on noise. This makes your communications clearer and more reliable. As we wrap up our look at police scanner frequencies, it's key to stress the need for responsible use. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) oversees radio frequencies in the U.S. Users must follow their rules to use scanners legally and ethically. Police scanners are great for keeping up with public safety and staying informed. But, we must respect the privacy and security of emergency services. Listening to encrypted channels or sharing sensitive info can harm critical operations and risk lives. Using scanners responsibly means only for personal awareness and security, not for illegal or harmful purposes. By sticking to FCC guidelines and focusing on community safety, we can enjoy scanners while maintaining high ethical standards. Most frequencies above 30 MHz are assigned on a local basis. To know where to listen for your local police or fire department, you'll need a frequency guide or directory for your locality. However, some frequencies, particularly those used for emergency or inter-agency communications, have been allocated nationally. The following is a list of some of the more widely used and active national frequencies. Program these into your scanner and get see what you can hear! 34.90: This channel is used nationwide by the National Guard during emergencies. 39.46: Used for inter-department emergency communications by local and state police forces. 47.42: This is a channel used across the United States by the Red Cross for relief operations. 52.525: This is a calling frequency used by ham radio operators in FM on their six-meter band. During periods of exceptional propagation, this frequency is filled with signals from hundreds or even thousands of miles away. If you're hearing distant signals here, then the 30 to 50 MHz range is also open for long distance reception. 121.50: This is the international aeronautical emergency frequency. 138.225: This is the prime disaster relief operations channel used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; it is active during earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and other catastrophic events. 146.52: This frequency is used by ham radio operators for non-repeater communications on the two-meter band; it is very busy in many parts of the country. 151.625: This channel is used by "itinerant" businesses, or those that travel about the country. Circuses, exhibitions, trade shows, and sports teams are some of the users you can hear. Other widely used itinerant channels are 154.57 and 154.60. 154.28: Used for inter-department emergency communications by local fire departments; 154.265 and 154.295 also used. 155.160: Used for inter-department emergency communications by local and state agencies during search and rescue operations. 155.475: Used for inter-department emergency communications by local and state police forces. 156.75: This channel is used internationally for broadcasts of maritime weather alerts. 156.80: This is the international maritime distress, calling, and safety channel. All ships must monitor this frequency while at sea. It is also heavily used on rivers, lakes, etc. 162.40: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 162.425: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 162.45: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 162.475: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 162.50: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 162.525: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 162.55: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 163.275: This channel is used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins. 163.4875: This channel is used nationwide by the National Guard during emergencies. 163.5125: This is the national disaster preparedness frequency used jointly by the armed forces. 164.50: This is the national communications channel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. 168.55: This is the national channel used by civilian agencies of the federal government for communications during emergencies and disasters. 243.00: This channel is used during military aviation emergencies. 259.70: This channel is used by the Space Shuttle during re-entry and landing. 296.80: This channel is used by the Space Shuttle during re-entry and landing. 311.00: This is an active in-flight channel used by the U.S. Air Force. 317.70: This is an active channel used by U.S. Coast Guard aviation. 317.80: This is an active channel used by U.S. Coast Guard aviation. 319.40: This is an active in-flight channel used by the U.S. Air Force. 340.20: This is an active channel used by U.S. Navy aviators. 409.20: This is the national communications channel for the Interstate Commerce Commission. 409.625: This is the national communications channel for the Department of State. 462.675: This channel is used for emergency communications and traveler assistance in the General Mobile Radio Service. Grasping radio frequency (RF) signals is your golden ticket to squeezing every bit of excitement from scanning police frequencies. Let's break down the core principles so you can ride the airwaves like a pro.Understanding RF SignalsThink of RF signals as the chatter that keeps the world connected—even your local police force. Frequency is like the rhythm of this chatter. Measured in hertz (Hz), it tells you how many beats or cycles happen per second. When things get serious, and you're counting by the millions, you switch to megahertz (MHz). So, one MHz equals a cool million beats per second (FCC.gov).The RF universe spans from a whisper at 3 kilohertz (3 kHz) to a sonic boom at 300 gigahertz (300 GHz). Knowing these stops along the way lets you pick the right lane for scooping up juicy scanner frequencies, as police and other public service voices dance all over this scale. Frequency Range Designation 3 kHz – 30 kHz Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) 30 kHz – 300 kHz Very Low Frequency (VLF) 300 kHz – 3 MHz Low Frequency (LF) 3 MHz – 30 MHz Medium Frequency (MF) 30 MHz – 300 MHz High Frequency (HF) 300 MHz – 3 GHz Ultra High Frequency (UHF) 3 GHz – 30 GHz Super High Frequency (SHF) 30 GHz – 300 GHz Extremely High Frequency (EHF) Wavelengths and FrequenciesImagine frequency and wavelength as being inseparable dance partners. When the fr

wisdom? Dive into local police scanner advice tailored to your area.Scanning Radio FrequenciesDifferent Types of ScannersSo, you're thinking about checking out scanner frequencies? It's like having a sneak peek into what's buzzing around in the airwaves. Here's a quick rundown of the different kinds of radios you might bump into, especially if you're hanging out in a city or down in your county: Scanner Type What It Does Analog Scanners Old but gold! They pick up those classic analog signals. Handy for catching fire trucks and police talk before they switched to digital. Watch out, though—lots of places have moved on from analog. Digital Scanners The modern fix. These ones are wizards at picking up digital babble from cops, fire folks, and other emergency teams. Some models even crack those tricky encrypted signals. Trunking Scanners Where it's at for big agencies. These guys tune in to trunked radio chatter, which play tag with lots of frequencies, making them a must for big operation eavesdropping. Mobile Scanners Perfect for your road trips! These stay in your car and let you gossip with the air waves on the move—fully battery-backed and can plug into your car. Talk about convenience! App-Based Scanners Join the app bandwagon. Your smartphone can tap into live scanner feeds from just about anywhere. It's like having a police scanner in your pocket! When you know your scanners, deciding gets a lot easier. If you're snooping around spots like Chicago, Cleveland, or Frederick, checking out what's airing over there could be your next adventure.Legalities of Monitoring FrequenciesPlaying around with a scanner? Let's not skimp on the rulebook—it's crucial to know where you stand legally! Avoid any sticky situations by checking this out: Public Access: You're in the clear to tune into regular radio, TV, ham radios, and some planes and boats. But do double-check what's open game. Restrictions: Encrypted police, fire, and ambulance chats? Hands-off! Listening in on those could land you with some fines—or worse. Privacy Laws: Every country has its own playbook about what's cool and what's dicey with radio listening. Do a little homework on what's legal around you. Historical Context: Back in the day, it was easy peasy to catch small police department chatter. Nowadays, the magic word is "encrypted"—so a lot less open action. Keep on top of those law changes, and definitely, be a good neighbor! For more about local waves, check out our pages for places like Kenosha County or Lincoln, NE to find the chatter in your neck of the woods.Scanner OperationsKnowing the ropes of using your scanner makes tuning into those scanner frequencies a breeze. Here's the lowdown on how search and scan modes work, plus some frequency tips to keep you in the loop.Search vs. Scan ModeWhen it's you and your scanner against the world, you'll bounce between two main modes: search mode and scan mode. Here's what each does: Search Mode: This is where the scanner roams freely, zoning in on any chatter within a set frequency range. It's great for uncovering frequencies that don't live in your saved list yet. To make your search snappy, use the right step size – usually between 5 kHz and 50 kHz, though the sweet spot varies with each scanner. On VHF and UHF bands, you'll likely want settings around 6.5 kHz and 12.5 kHz. Scan Mode: This is your scanner's version of speed dating – quickly hopping through your stored favorites for some action. The trick to smooth scanning? Prioritize the frequencies you care about most so your scanner doesn't waste time on the boring stuff. Mode Use Step Size Range Search Mode Sniffs out and lands on active talk 5 kHz – 50 kHz Scan Mode Flips through your pre-set frequencies VHF: 6.5 kHz; UHF: 12.5 kHz Proper Frequency SettingsDialing in the right frequencies is your ticket to a prime scanner experience. Here's what to keep your eyes on: Frequency Selection: Hone in on frequencies that hit home. City slickers might want to tune into local police frequencies available on multiple sites, like Chicago police scanner and Cleveland police scanner. Legality: Stick to the legal side of the airwaves. You can listen to amateur radio, aircraft chats, and public broadcasts, but encrypted digital communications – think emergency services – are off-limits Icom UK. Type of Scanner: Decide between a handheld model for the road or a sturdy base unit for home HQ. Each type has its perks, tailored to how you plan to tune into those police frequencies. Armed with the scoop on these modes and settings, you're ready to make your scanner dance to whatever beat you fancy. Whether you're keeping up with your neighborhood or exploring regions far and wide, tweak your setup to get the most out of those real-time scoops. Check out more tips in our scanner radio guide. Tue 27th Oct 2020, 7:54pm You know how when you turn the radio on in your car, there are dozens of channels to listen to at any time? Well, that's just the beginning of it. At any given time, there are almost thousands of radio waves in the air around you including the police scanner frequencies such as the UHF police channels, but you can't listen to them with your old regular car radio. Enter the police scanner! With a police radio scanner and the right scanner codes, you can listen in to dozens of police channels. But don't let the name fool you – they're not just for listening in to the police. You can use them to listen in on channels from the fire-fighting department, ambulance drivers, astronauts, race car drivers, air traffic control, taxis, security guards, and so much more. Let's see what else police radio scanners can do and learn more about how they work. What is a radio scanner? A radio scanner is a device that allows you to pick a wider range of frequencies than your regular car radio. On those frequencies, you can listen to conversations from many different departments if you have the right cop scanner codes giving police scanner frequencies, but more on that later. They're also portable, which means you can easily take them with you and listen to your favourite channels wherever you are. In addition, many manufacturers try to outdo their competition and include amazing features that you can use to enrich your listening experience and make it that much more enjoyable. We'll go through some of those later, but for now, let's see the basics of how a radio scanner works? How does a radio scanner work? A radio scanner typically operates on two different modes: Search – in this mode, your scanner will search for any transmission within your preferred frequency range. It will quickly scan through all frequencies, and if it detects a transmission, it will let you listen to it. Then, you can choose to hold the scanner on that frequency or continue scanning for other transmissions and search the UHF police channels. You can also save the frequency into a memory channel so you can listen to it again. Scan – Speaking of saved police scanner frequencies, once you have enough saved channels in your memory banks, you can set the scanner to only scan those channels for your cop scannercodes. That way, you can be sure to never miss any action since this is a way quicker method and it only focuses on your favourite channels. Any information about the channel will appear on the scanner's screen so you can stay informed at all times about what you're listening to. Some scanners even allow options to customize the display with colour codes and other layouts that make it even easier for you. Now that you're more familiar with the basic operation of a police scanner and using scanner codes let's go through some of the more specific terms you need to know about. These will also cover some of the more basic features we mentioned earlier. Common radio scanner terms you need to know GPS Capability – some scanners utilize GPS technology to allow you to listen in to nearby frequencies no matter your location. New location-specific frequencies will load on your scanner automatically thanks to the GPS. Alpha tag – used to describe frequencies in talk groups, usually under 12 characters. Close call – quickly scanning through nearby frequencies to listen in to any important transmissions that might affect you. PC Programming – most radio scanners can be programmed through your PC. You'll just need to install software and configure all your settings there. Storage – the internal storage of the scanner, where saved channels and recorded conversations are stored. Range – estimated scanning range of the radio scanner. This depends on the type of surroundings you have. Step size – this determines how efficiently your scanner searches through frequencies. Older scanners usually have the step size locked, but on newer models, you can choose between 5, 6.25, 8.33, 10, 12.5, 25, and 50 kHz steps. Scan delay – the amount of time the scanner will keep listening to a frequency after the transmission ends, and before it starts scanning other frequencies. These vary from 2 to 30 seconds, and you can set it up however you like on most scanners. Lock-out – this feature allows you to ignore a certain frequency so that the scanner never stops on it. Types of radio scanners Radio scanners can be found in two different formats: analog and digital. Older radio scanners are mostly analog, and with them, you can listen to only analog frequencies,and not digital. With digital scanners, on the other hand, you can listen to both analog and digital frequencies, such as UHF police channels, Phase 1 and Phase 2 digital signals, as well as trunked systems. Which one do I need? To determine which one is the better option for you, look up your state using our tool and see if they're using mostly analog or digital signals. Most counties and states have started making the switch to digital, but there are still some that use analog, but to pick up all scanner codes you might need a digital version. How expensive are radio scanners? Although more advanced models can get pretty high in price, you don't need to spend a fortune to get started in radio scanning. Most analog scanners come at less than $100, and you can find digital models with all the basic features for under $500 that will pick up all UHF police channels and general scanner codes. To give you a better sense of what you'd get in that price range between $100-500, you can check out the Uniden BEARTRACKER 885, which is both a full-featured CB radio and a digital scanner. It's perfect for car use and comes with a pre-programmed US and Canada database. Or, you can take a look at the Whistler TRX-1 Handheld Scanner with its advanced features and excellent audio quality. Another price range up, at over $500, you can see even more advanced options, such as the Uniden SD200, which many consider to be the best radio scanner out there with revolutionary features. Another model from Uniden is the BCD536HP which is one of the easiest scanners to program and has GPS capability. Are police scanners legal to use? In general, yes, police scanners are legal to use for picking up police scanner frequencies. Some states, however, have banned them and you can't use them there. These include Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, and Minnesota. Note that this does not constitute legal advice. For more detailed information about the legality of scanners, make sure to consult a qualified legal advisor or ask around your radio scanner store for insider information on scanner codes and listening to UHF police channels where you are. Finally, have a great day listening to police, fire and EMS frequencies! At Scanner Master, we're more than a retailer – we are also an online resource for the police and emergency services scanner community. If you're looking for information on police scanner codes, police scanner frequencies, scanner codes, scanner frequencies, police radio frequencies or other information, use this section as your guide. Keep in mind that we're always happy to talk, chat or email with you about your specialized problems. The world of police and emergency responder scanning is as vast as the U.S. and Canada, so visit this page frequently for the latest updates of concern to our scanning community. The best national resource for frequency information is found at www.radioreference.com. Just create a user name and password for free (although donations are welcome) and then go to the "Database" and then "Database Home" for all the information you could ever want on frequencies and trunking talk groups for your area or any area in the nation. Frequencies, communications systems and more! If you're looking for frequencies and trying to understand the many communication systems in your area, you're come to the right place. Let's cover some of the basics. There are three types' communication systems:Analog conventional Trunking Digital So that means there are three levels of scanners: 1. Analog Conventional 2. Analog trunking 3. Digital (scanner cover all three types of systems) The type of scanner needed is determine by the communications systems in use in your area. Let's start off with understanding the three types. What is an Analog Conventional Scanner? These scanners are great for monitoring basic analog "FM" police and fire systems and usually AM Commercial aviation. Analog conventional scanners do not pick up trunking, digital, 700 or 800 MHz systems. Basic scanner can also pick up: Amateur Radio Marine Railroad Air (Excluding Military Air) FRS/GMRS Racing What is an Analog Trunking Scanner? These scanners are non digital that pick up both analog conventional and analog trunking scanning them at the same time. Trunking is a system which multiple agencies are sharing the same system. One individual department conversation jump from one frequency to another. Conversations of individual group/department can be followed by programming a talk group. Most system there is one frequency called a Control Channel, this channel sounds like a buzz-saw if monitored conventional. The Control Channel is the brain of the system, assigning each user on the system a frequency when transmitting. Here is Example using Portland, ME Motorola Type II Trunking system, let's break down steps of programming a trunking system: Step 1 – First you need to determine the type of trunking system. LTR EDACS Motorola System I/II (This system is Motorola System II) Step 2 – You would then enter the group of frequencies of the nearest transmitter site in your area. Site 1 - Portland - 866.06250, 866.28750, 866.31250, 866.53750, 866.56250, 866.78750, 867.28750c, 867.78750c, 868.28750c, 868.78750c Site 2 - Scarborough - 855.98750, 856.26250, 856.46250, 857.21250, 857.46250, 857.73750, 858.21250, 858.46250 The "C" indicates it a control channel (If you're in downtown Portland you would pick site 1) Step 3 - The final step is programming the talk-groups you wish to monitor. Talk Group User 48 Police Dispatch 80 Police Car to Car 1648 Fire Dispatch 1744 Fire Operations 2 Programming a trunking system can be made this simple by getting the optional ARC (Advice Radio Control) software. This software looks very much like a spreadsheet. You can enter the data into the appropriate fields. The other option is to leave the programming to us with our HomeTown Programming Service. What is a digital "Project 25" (P25) Scanner? This type of scanner can pick up analog/digital conventional communications and analog/digital trunking. Digital communications are transmitted in ones and zeros like computer binary code, or like Digital TV. Digital scanners decode both a digital signal and receive analog signal. Digital scanner cannot pick up encrypted communications, or cell phone calls. It's not possible or lawful. Click here to see our full line of Digital Scanners. There are a few systems that cannot be monitor: Open Sky, EDACS ProVoice, and European Tetra or any type of encryption. Did you buy the right scanner? If you already bought scanner, and you are not sure if you have the right one, don't worry! You can check by simply visiting our sister website policescanners.net. This website will tell you what types of communication systems are in use in your area. Plus give you the recommended scanners for that area too. All so you can find great links to online frequency databases covering your local area.