

1306 E. 35th
Spokane Wa. 99203
August 14, 2000

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
12th St. S.W.
Dear Ms. Salas:
Washington D.C. 20544

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

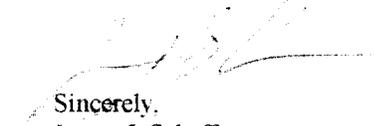
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Re: Ultra-Wideband

Dear Ms. Salas,

According to the information I have at hand the FCC is considering changes in it's rules to allow the development and testing of equipment that may be used for Urban search and rescue, confined space & Fire rescue. This device will be able to sense the presence of a human being even through concrete. This has obvious benefits to my line of work.

As a Paramedic of ten years in the second largest city in Washington state, I can tell you with total certainty that the longer a patient remains in a toxic or dangerous atmosphere the less their odds of survival. A device such as the Ultra-Wideband sensor could easily help direct us to the location of the patient in a much more timely manner then now exists. As a Firefighter of 21 years, I can say that a device such as this, would greatly improve the already dangerous conditions of my job by allowing me to rapidly locate any patients or downed fellow firefighters thus spending less time inside the building, exposing my crew and myself to the dangers of collapse etc... Many a Firefighter has died searching a deserted building in the off chance that someone was in there. This should not be allowed to continue. If technology exists that may improve my chances of saving lives and living to retirement I want it! I have been to many fatality fires, and I can tell you there is nothing worse then bringing out a dead child because you were too late getting to him. I believe that there is an apparent and demonstrated need for this technology, just pick up a newspaper. This technology, if allowed to be developed would have a net result of a lower fatality and injury rate for these patients and their rescuers.


Sincerely,
James J. Schaffer
Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic

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