

# CITY OF BURBANK

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Mayor  
Harry J. Klein

Fire Prevention  
Saves Lives

September 6, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
455-12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Ultra-Wideband  
ET Docket 98-153**

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on ultra-wideband radio. In reading about this new technology, I believe it would greatly assist and increase the safety of firefighters in performing their duties on the fireground. The mission of the Burbank Fire Department and many others is to protect life and property. The ultra-wideband technology would allow us to do this in a much more expedient and safe manner.

Fire departments across the United States are no longer utilized for just fire/rescue and emergency medical calls. Many departments including the Burbank Fire Department now includes highly trained and specialized teams in building collapse, high-angle rescue, below grade rescue, and dive teams. These are in addition to a district wide Hazardous Materials Response team. The use of ultra-wideband would assist us in not only locating our personnel but also finding potential victims as well. As a Lieutenant and Safety Officer for the Burbank Fire Department this new technology would greatly improve our ability to locate victims trapped in fire situations and or building collapse. We have had several incidents throughout my career in which this technology would have increase our ability in responding to and finding trapped or unconscious victims. Ten years ago a devastating tornado ripped through the communities of Plainfield, Crest Hill and Joliet (IL). Had this technology been available then, the locating of people trapped in rubble or tossed into nearby cornfields would have been a much easier task to accomplish.

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I urge the FCC to move forward on this matter in making their decision to aid fire service personnel throughout the United States. I would also ask the FCC to reach a decision on the technical matters of this proposal and make this new technology readily available to fire, police and emergency management organizations. Additionally, I would also request the FCC to make available reasonable regulations that are designed to prevent harmful interference to our public safety communications systems and networks.

As the Safety Officer for the Burbank Fire Department, I have discussed this new technology with the chief and other officers of our department and we are all in agreement that this new technology would aid fire, police and emergency management agencies in performing their duties and we wholeheartedly endorse this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Seper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J".

John F. Seper  
Lieutenant