



## **Safety Warning System (SWS) is now being used on WA roads**

Most radar detectors sold in the last decade are equipped to detect SWS transmissions and warn drivers of approaching road hazards. SWS transmitters operate at 24.1 GHz (a similar frequency range allocated used for police traffic radar's K-Band). When a conventional radar detector encounters a transmission, it provides a K-band alert. However, when an SWS-equipped detector encounters the coded signal on this frequency, it locks in on the signal and alerts by beeping or displaying one of more than 60 messages stored in memory and alerting by digital voice.

Help save a life. Buy and use an SWS equipped radar detector.

### **Messages to expect in text and voice**

- There are 64 SWS messages that can be detected by modern radar detectors. Initially, transmitters on WA roads will transmit warnings as listed below.
- Road Construction... Transmitters are installed on road construction vehicles that spend time on road construction sites. They typically have flashing lights activated along with the SWS transmitter. Up to 1km, drivers will get the warning 'Highway work crew ahead'.
- Emergency vehicles... Emergency vehicles such as Fire trucks or Ambulances activate the SWS transmitter when they turn on their flashing lights. Up to 1km away, drivers will get the warning, 'Emergency vehicle approaching'. When the vehicle stops, it will transmit, 'Stationary Emergency vehicle ahead'.
- Building Construction... In situations where lanes are blocked due to materials handling or crane work on construction sites, up to 1km away drivers will get the warning, 'Lane closed ahead' or 'Work zone ahead'.
- Train Approaching/At crossing... Drivers at uncontrolled level crossings will be warned of a train approaching from either direction.

### **Advantages to radar detector purchasers and users**

- SWS technology brings the warning of road hazards into the car where the driver can clearly comprehend and heed the warning.
- Drivers who can be warned of hazards by SWS are more likely to slow in work zones and are made aware of an approaching emergency vehicle no matter what direction it is coming from.
- SWS equipped drivers are more aware of road conditions and as a result may have fewer accidents.
- Intelligent Transport System (ITS) programs such as SWS will have a downward effect on the road toll. This in turn will cut down on the impact road trauma has on the community and help slow the spiraling inflation of insurance premiums.

### **How you can help ADRA**

- The non-profit Australian Drivers Rights Association (ADRA) oversees the implementation and testing of SWS. You can help by joining ADRA as well as provide feedback of any SWS warnings you come across and how you reacted.

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