



**To:** Notice to all Radio users

**From:** Jake Hunt , Operations Manager

**Date:** June 4, 2015

**Subject: Public Safety Radio Interference Caused by Vehicle Mounted Cellular Signal Boosters.**

It has been brought to UCA's attention that many public safety and other governmental agencies have installed or are considering installing Vehicle Mounted Cellular Amplifying Devices, Signal Boosters, sometimes referred to as BDA's.

In short, these devices have been documented as a major cause of interference to Two Way Radios.

The problem is not exclusive to but is more pronounced in fringe or marginal radio system coverage areas and is most noticeable when the radios (vehicle mounted or handheld) are in the receive mode. In other words, when an officer, fire fighter, or other radio user is receiving radio traffic the signal comes through as very noisy, distorted, or garbled. Many times the signal is unintelligible. It has been observed that the problem is not exclusive to the vehicle in which the device is installed. Any other vehicle or user with a handheld radio that is in close proximity to the unit with the device installed will have the same problem. **To reiterate, one unit with one of the devices installed and turned on could cause significant coverage issues for all others radio users in close proximity.**

If it is necessary to install them it should be done using an easily accessed switch and **they should be left in the off position unless they are needed and then they should be turned off again.**

BDA's in buildings have been a major interference issue for a long time. When they go bad, they start putting out garbage on many frequencies and takes a significant effort with a knowledgeable technician and the proper equipment to locate. In the mean time, the radio system can be and has been significantly compromised. The point is these vehicle mounted boosters have the same potential but rather than being stationary they are constantly moving and then they get shut off and become impossible to locate.