

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
ALASKA FLIGHT SERVICES, AJR-BAL
222 W. 7th AVENUE, #14
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99513**

ISSUED: January 22, 2013

EFFECTIVE: January 22, 2013

Alaska Flight Services, LETTER TO AIRMEN NUMBER 13-1

SUBJECT: Enhanced Special Reporting Service (eSRS)

CANCELLATION: January 21, 2014

Satellite communication devices are now available that provide tracking or emergency alert features for pilots. The FAA, Alaska Flight Services, has developed a program that allows pilots to augment and enhance the benefits of the standard VFR Flight Plan. We are starting from the basic premise of "Special Reporting Service", an established program to track pilots operating in mountains or over water by maintaining frequent contact on the radio. That idea is to notify search and rescue at the earliest possible moment when it is believed that an aircraft is in distress. This new program allows Flight Service to receive an alert from an aircraft in distress via lightweight electronics carried in the aircraft and transmitted via satellite. Flight Service does not actively track the flights, but once an alert is generated, the position of the aircraft is transmitted to Flight Service.

Pilots and aircraft owners who have SPOT™ or Spidertracks™ devices are now encouraged to participate in this program on VFR flights within the state of Alaska. The alerting features of these devices, combined with a flight plan, may provide benefits when operating in Alaska. Search and Rescue procedures for trans-border flights to Canada or Russia are not currently adapted for eSRS. Messages not associated with an aircraft will be forwarded to the Rescue Coordination Center for action. Additional makes of devices will be included as they become available and are tested and integrated into the eSRS program.

Benefits of the eSRS program include:

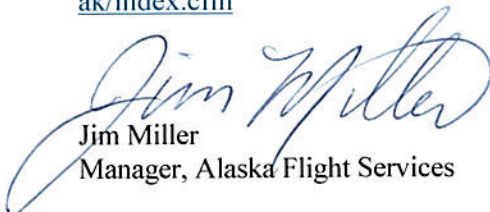
- Alert notifications are transmitted to FSS directly, reducing the response time in the event of an emergency.
- Alert messages typically include the location of the aircraft in distress, allowing rescue to go directly to the aircraft location, instead of searching along an entire route when a flight becomes overdue.
- The service offers increased protection if circumstances necessitate filing a round-robin or extended duration flight plan for travel to remote areas without access to VHF radio communication outlets.

If you would like more information or wish to participate in the eSRS program please call one of the FSS's below and talk to a staff support specialist:

- Fairbanks Flight Service Station – (907) 474-0388
- Juneau Flight Service Station – (907) 586-7517
- Kenai Flight Service Station – (907) 283-3735

Additional information available at:

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/systemops/fs/alaskan/alaska/esrs-ak/index.cfm



Jim Miller
Manager, Alaska Flight Services