

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

ISSUED: March 6, 2014

EFFECTIVE: March 10, 2014

Alaska Flight Services, LETTER TO AIRMEN NUMBER 14-1

SUBJECT: "DeLorme inReach™" Locator Device Integration into Enhanced Special Reporting Service (eSRS)

CANCELLATION: March 9, 2015

The Federal Aviation administration (FAA), Alaska Flight Services, is expanding the eSRS program to include the DeLorme inReach™ devices. Private companies continue to develop and refine satellite communication devices that have the functionality to provide pilots tracking, emergency alert notification, and in some cases texting capabilities. The eSRS program allows pilots to augment and enhance the benefits of the standard VFR Flight Plan by using these devices. SPOT™ and Spidertracks™ units have previously been approved for the eSRS program.

Pilots and aircraft owners are encouraged to participate in this program while operating within the state of Alaska. The alerting features of these devices, combined with a flight plan, may provide benefits when operating in Alaska. Messages not associated with a flight plan will be forwarded to the Rescue Coordination Center for action. Flight Service does not actively track the flights, but once an alert is generated, the position of the aircraft is transmitted to Flight Service either directly or through the International Emergency Response Coordination Center (IERCC). 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 either directly or through the IERCC, 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

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