

I retired as commander of the Communications Division of the Orlando Police Department. I have worked on public safety issues for 30 years. In response to a recent letter to the Chairman concerning testing I submit the following:

Best efforts can fall short of saving lives. Lives are not saved at the national level. They are not saved at the state level. Lives are lost or lives are saved at one little point at the local level. That point may be in a major intersection in a large city, or that point may be in a deserted canal where a grandmother dies because best efforts did no good.

If Phase 2 requirements mean anything then they must work everywhere. Persons in Monet, MO are just as dead as a person in downtown Los Angeles. The excuse can't be made that we have a concentrated base of subscribers in Los Angeles. One of the most basic tenets of our Nation is equal justice under the law. Equal justice means more than when someone stands before a mighty court. To be truly equal you must also have the same protection when your house is on fire and the law says your cellular telephone is supposed to show where your frantic call is coming from as you choke on the smoke.

It is great to have partnerships but they are not essential. What is essential is compliance. Compliance is not something that can be waived by a I'll scratch your back if you will scratch mine. Testing for compliance of the Phase 2 is something that must be independent of both carriers and PSAPs. The citizens of each community in this nation have to right to know if their local public safety agencies are really protecting them, and with more and more people relying on cellular telephones they have the right to expect the telephone to bring help as they have been told for all these many years.

In God we trust, everyone else we test.