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**Cobra 55XLR In-Dash  
40-Channel CB 2-Way  
Mobile Transceiver  
With AM/FM/FM Stereo Radio  
And 8-Track Stereo Tape Player**



Cobra Communications Product Group

DYNASCAN CORPORATION

6460 W. Cortland Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60635

**Instruction Manual**  
**for**  
**Cobra 55XLR In-Dash**  
**40-Channel CB 2-Way**  
**Mobile Transceiver**  
**With AM/FM/FM Stereo Radio**  
**And**  
**8-Track Stereo Tape Player**



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## THE CB STORY

The Citizens Band lies between the shortwave broadcast and 10-meter amateur radio bands, and was established by law in 1949. The Class D two-way communications service was opened in 1959. (CB also includes a Class A business band and Class C remote control frequencies.) Acquiring the Class D license requires no detailed technical or Morse-code knowledge that is required for a “Ham” license.

Although the FCC has eliminated the requirement for the \$4.00 CB license fee, a license is still required. Filing procedure remains unchanged. One license can be good for any number of sets used by a given family or business. Once you receive your Class D license for your equipment, anyone may use it.

For example, though the equipment must be licensed to someone over 18 years of age, a child can use the equipment to talk to another child, or an employee can use the equipment as part of his or her routine services. However, final responsibility of legal operation rests with the CB licensee.

### NOTE

FCC regulations permit only “transmissions” (one party to another) rather than “broadcasts” (to a wide audience). Thus, advertising is not allowed on CB channels because it is *broadcasting*.

HAVE  
A GOOD DAY  
TODAY  
AND  
A BETTER DAY  
TOMORROW!

# Section I

## Introduction

### FREQUENCY RANGE

The COBRA 55XLR is a professional-quality, 40-channel AM Citizens Band transceiver with a combined AM/FM multiplex radio, 8-track stereo player and 4-way fading. Features included in the AM/FM multiplex receiver are variable-balance, vernier-type dial, FM stereo indicator and tone control.

The COBRA 55XLR provides high-level, trouble-free performance in AM/FM multiplex broadcast listening as well as the Citizens Band Radio Service. The CB band is composed of the following frequency assignments:

<b>Channel</b>	<b>Channel Frequency in MHz</b>	<b>Channel</b>	<b>Channel Frequency in MHz</b>
1	26.965	21	27.215
2	26.975	22	27.225
3	26.985	23	27.255
4	27.005	24	27.235
5	27.015	25	27.245
6	27.025	26	27.265
7	27.035	27	27.275
8	27.055	28	27.285
9	27.065	29	27.295
10	27.075	30	27.305
11	27.085	31	27.315
12	27.105	32	27.325
13	27.115	33	27.335
14	27.125	34	27.345
15	27.135	35	27.355
16	27.155	36	27.365
17	27.165	37	27.375
18	27.175	38	27.385
19	27.185	39	27.395
20	27.205	40	27.405

These frequencies are generated and accurately controlled by a phase lock loop (PLL) circuit, comprised of the latest state-of-the-art integrated circuit

technology, thereby ensuring high reliability and excellent frequency stability on the above channels.

To obtain maximum performance from the COBRA 55XLR, please read carefully the following descriptions and operations.

### **WARNING**

1. Operation of this equipment requires a valid Station License issued by the Federal Communications Commission. Do not transmit with your equipment until you have received your License or complied with procedures explained on FCC Temporary License Form 555-B. A copy of FCC Application Form 505, FCC Temporary License Form 555-B, and Part 95 Subpart D of the Commission Rules, are packed with this combination transceiver for your convenience.
2. You are required to complete FCC License Application Form 555 and submit it to the FCC, Gettysburg, Pa. 17362, in order to receive your license.
3. You are required to read and understand Part 95 Subpart D of the FCC Rules and Regulations, before operating your station. FCC Rules require you to always have on hand a current copy of Part 95 Subpart D of the FCC Rules, as part of your Station Records.
4. All transmitter adjustments other than those supplied by the manufacturer as front panel operating controls, must be made by, or under the supervision of, the holder of an FCC-issued 1st or 2nd Class Radio Operator License.
5. Replacement or substitution of crystals, transistors, regular diodes or other parts of a unique nature, with parts other than those recommended by Dynascan, may cause violation of the technical regulations of Part 95 of the FCC Rules, or violation of the Type Acceptance requirements of Part 2 of the Rules.

# Section II Specifications

## GENERAL

Input Voltage	13.8 VDC nom. (negative ground).
Current Drain	<i>Transmit:</i> 2.0A. <i>Receive:</i> 1.5A. <i>AM Radio:</i> 1.5A. <i>FM Radio:</i> 1.5A. <i>Tape Player:</i> 1.5A.
Size	7¼ x 3 x 5-3/8" deep.
Weight	4.9 lbs. (2.2kg.).
Antenna Connector	UHF, SO239.
Semiconductors	21 transistors, 3 field effect transistors, 20 diodes, 2 LED's and 1 diode in the microphone, and 8 integrated circuits.
Meter	Illuminated; indicates relative power output and received signal strength on CB mode.

## CB SECTION

### TRANSMITTER

Power Output	4 watts.
Frequency Response	300 to 3000 Hz.
Output Impedance	50 ohms, unbalanced.
Harmonic Supression	Better than 60 dB.



Channels	40.
Frequency Range	26.965 to 27.405 MHz.
Frequency Control	Phase Locked Loop (PLL)
Frequency Tolerance	0.005%.
Operating Temperature Range	-30° to +50°C.
Microphone, Remote	Remote control, plug-in type; dynamic; low impedance with indicator and Squelch control.

### **RECEIVER**

Sensitivity	0.5 $\mu$ V.
Selectivity	5KHz at -6 dB.
Image Rejection	-60 dB.
IF Frequency	Double conversion, 1st: 10.695 MHz 2nd: 455 KHz.
Audio Output Power	4 watts per channel.
Frequency Response	300 to 3000 Hz.
Distortion	10%.

### **FM RADIO SECTION**

FM Sensitivity	6 $\mu$ V.
FM Selectivity	300 KHz at -6 dB.
Stereo Separation	35 dB.
Audio Output	4 watts per channel.

## **AM RADIO SECTION**

AM Sensitivity	20 $\mu$ V.
AM Selectivity	5 KHz at -6 dB.
Audio Output	4 watts per channel.

## **TAPE PLAYER SECTION (8-TRACK STEREO)**

Frequency Range	100 Hz to 6 KHz $\pm$ 3 dB.
Wow and Flutter	0.35% R.M.S.
Audio Output	4 watts per channel.

# Section III Operation

## CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

### A. CONTROL FUNCTIONS

1. **OFF/ON VOLUME MANUAL PROGRAM SELECT.** Turn clockwise to apply power to the unit and to set the desired listening level. By depressing this control, you can change the tape program in sequence.
2. **TONE.** This control is used to tune the audio pitch to the operator's preference. Bass is increased by counter-clockwise rotation and treble is increased by clockwise rotation of the control.
3. **SQUELCH (Located on remote mike).** This control is used in the CB mode to eliminate background noise in the absence of an incoming signal. For maximum receiver sensitivity, it is desired that the control be adjusted only to the point where background or ambient noise is eliminated. With no signal coming in, turn the SQUELCH knob fully counter-clockwise, then slowly clockwise until the receiver noise disappears. Any signal to be received must now be slightly stronger than the average received noise. Further clockwise rotation will increase the threshold level which a signal must overcome in order to be heard. Only strong signals will be heard at a maximum clockwise setting.
4. **CB CHANNEL SELECTOR (Located on remote mike).** This switch selects any one of the 40 Citizens Band channels desired. The selected channel appears on the LED readout. Channel 9 has been reserved by the FCC for emergency communications involving the immediate safety of life or immediate protection of property. Channel 9 also may be used to render assistance to a motorist.
5. **TUNE (Tuning).** This control is for manual station tuning when in the AM or FM receiver mode.
6. **BAL CONTROL (Located inside tape compartment, upper right side).** Open tape door with finger and slide control to left or right for desired balance.

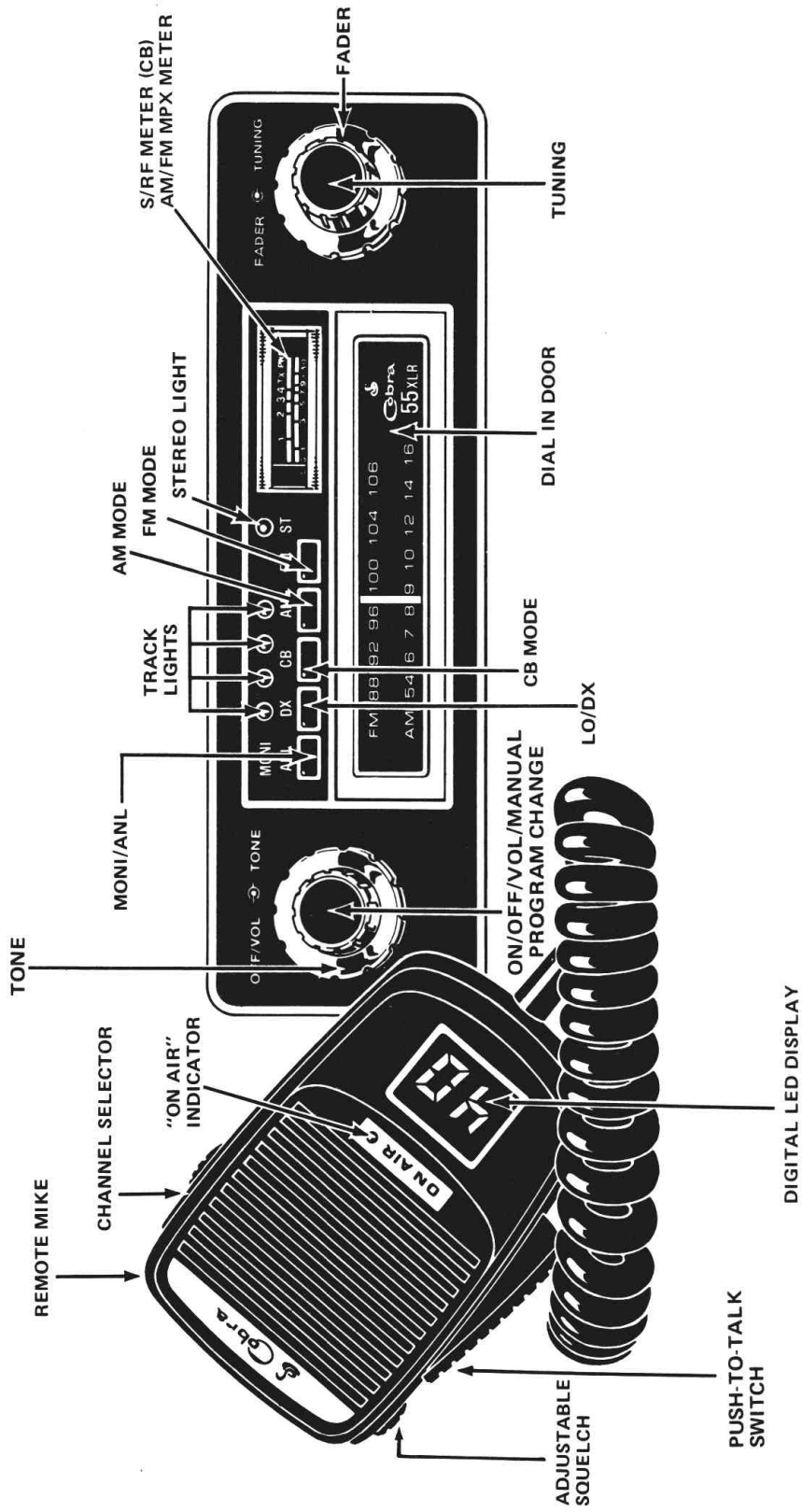


Fig. 1. Controls and indicators.

7. **FADER.** Governs sound level balance between speakers. On four-speaker installations, the FADER adjusts the relative level of front and rear pairs of speakers.
8. **FM PUSHBUTTON.** Selects FM mode of receiver operation.
9. **AM PUSHBUTTON.** Selects AM (broadcast band) mode of receiver operation.
10. **CB PUSHBUTTON.** Selects CB (Citizens Band) mode of receiver and/or transmitter operation. *If you wish to operate the transmitter, this button must be pushed in.* This will allow communications on any of the 40 user-selectable Citizens Band channels.
11. **ANL (Automatic Noise Limiter).** This button is for reduction or elimination of distracting noise received when in the CB mode.  
  
NOTE: ANL is selected by depressing dual function MONI/ANL pushbutton.
12. **MONI (CB Monitor) Pushbutton.** Your COBRA 55XLR incorporates a monitor feature which can be used to keep an ear tuned on your selected CB channel even though you are listening to an AM, FM, FM stereo station on TAPE.

To operate this feature, proceed as follows:

- a. Set the unit in CB mode by depressing CB pushbutton.
- b. Select your usual CB channel.
- c. Set SQUELCH to desired threshold level.
- d. Set AM, FM on TAPE mode to the desired mode.
- e. Push MONI switch in.

#### NOTE

Even though you are able to receive you cannot transmit in this "moni" mode. You must depress the "CB" mode pushbutton and extract tape cartridge from player.

- 13. LO/DX Pushbutton (RF Gain in CB Mode).** This local/distance switch enables you, when in the "FM" mode, to increase or decrease the sensitivity of your receiver.

It is suggested that for normal operation the radio should be in the DX mode by leaving the "DX" button in the out position.

When you are driving near an FM transmitter or in the city, it is suggested that you push this switch in, to avoid "popping" sound of close-in stations.

On CB mode, this pushbutton acts as RF gain control switch depressing the button to reduce the gain of CB receiver.

## **B. INDICATORS**

- 1. PWR/S/TUNING METER.** Triple function meter indicates relative input signal strength of Citizens Band channels ("S" units), relative transmitter power (PWR) when transmitting, and functions as peak reading tuning meter for either AM or FM stereo reception.
- 2. CB CHANNEL INDICATOR (Located on remote mike).** The selected Citizens Band channel appears on the LED readout.
- 3. AM/FM TUNING DIAL.** Pointer indicates the selected station in either AM or FM mode of operation.
- 4. "ON AIR" INDICATOR (Located on remote mike).** The red light is a transmitter output indicator device which is activated when the transmitter is keyed.
- 5. FM STEREO INDICATOR.** This will illuminate when the program being broadcast is in FM stereo.
- 6. TRACK LIGHTS (4).** One light will illuminate, indicating program selected.

- C. PRESS-TO-TALK MICROPHONE.** The Citizens Band receiver and transmitter are controlled by the press-to-talk switch on the microphone. Press the switch and the transmitter is activated; release the switch to receive. Note that the transmitter will function only when in the CB mode (CB pushbutton depressed).

#### **D. OPERATING PROCEDURE TO RECEIVE CB**

1. Turn the radio on by rotating the ON/OFF/Volume control clockwise.
2. Depress the CB pushbutton.
3. Rotate the Fader control to any position, whichever is preferable.
4. Rotate the volume control clockwise until the listening level is comfortable.
5. Set the channel selector switch to the desired channel.
6. Listen to the background noise from the speaker. Turn the SQUELCH control slowly clockwise until the noise just disappears. (No signal should be present.) Leave the control at this setting. The SQUELCH is now properly adjusted. The receiver will remain quiet until a signal is actually received. Do not advance the control too far, or some of the weaker signals will not be heard.

#### **E. OPERATING PROCEDURE TO TRANSMIT**

1. Depress CB pushbutton.
2. Select desired channel of transmission.
3. If the selected channel is clear, depress the PUSH-TO-TALK switch on the microphone. Hold the microphone two inches from the mouth and speak clearly in a normal voice.

#### **CAUTION**

Be sure the antenna is properly connected to the radio prior to transmitting. Prolonged transmitting without an antenna or with a poorly matched antenna (high SWR, over 3) could cause damage to the transmitter.

#### **F. OPERATING PROCEDURE TO RECEIVE AM/FM STEREO**

1. Depress either AM or FM pushbuttons.

2. Set the VOLUME control to the desired listening level.
3. Select the desired AM or FM station with the tuning control.

#### **G. PROCEDURE TO OPERATE TAPE PLAYER**

1. Insert cartridge through tape door.
2. Select desired program by pushing volume switch in.
3. Tape tracks can be changed manually or as tape plays through to end, each track will change automatically.
4. When changing back to radio function, pull cartridge completely out.
5. It is recommended that the tape cartridge be completely removed from the tape player when not in use.

#### **CB ANTENNA**

Since the maximum allowable power output to the transmitter is limited by the FCC, the antenna is one important factor affecting transmission distance. Only a properly matched antenna system will allow maximum power transfer from 50-ohm transmission line to the radiating element. In mobile installations (cars, trucks, boats, etc.), an antenna system that is non-directional should be used.

A vertically polarized quarter-wavelength whip antenna provides the most reliable operation and greatest range. The shorter loaded-type whip antennas are more attractive, compact and adequate for applications where the maximum possible distance is not required. Also the loaded whips do not present the problems of height imposed by the full quarter-wavelength whip.

Mobile whip antennas utilize the metal body of the vehicle as a ground plane. When mounted at a corner of the vehicle they are slightly directional, in the direction of the body of the vehicle. For all practical purposes, however, the radiation pattern is non-directional. The slight directional characteristic will be observed only at extreme distances. A standard antenna connector (Type SO-239) is provided on the transceiver for easy connection to a standard PL-259 cable termination.



If the transceiver is not mounted on a metal surface, it is necessary to run a separate ground wire from the unit to a good metal electric ground in the vehicle. When installed in a boat, the transceiver will not operate at maximum efficiency without a ground plate, unless the vessel has a steel hull.

Before installing the transceiver in a boat, consult your dealer for information regarding an adequate grounding system and prevention of electrolysis between fittings in the hull and water.

#### **NOTE**

3-Way Combination Antennas are available which allow operation of all three bands (AM-FM & CB), using a single antenna.

### **IGNITION NOISE INTERFERENCE**

Use of a mobile receiver at low signal levels is normally limited by the presence of electrical noise. The primary source of noise in automobile installations is from the generator and ignition system in the vehicle. Under most operating conditions, when signal level is adequate, the background noise does not present a serious problem. Also, when extremely low level signals are being received, the transceiver may be operated with vehicle engine turned off. The unit requires very little current and therefore will not significantly discharge the vehicle battery.

Even though the COBRA 55XLR has a selective automatic noise limiter, in some installations ignition interference may be high enough to make good communications impossible. The electrical noise may come from several sources. Many possibilities exist and variations between vehicles require different solutions to reduce the noise. Consult your COBRA dealer or a 2-way radio technician for help in locating and correcting the source of severe noise.

### **FM RECEPTION AND INTERFERENCE**

In order to ensure the best possible reception, it is necessary to extend the antenna to its maximum height. Any deviation from this could result in poor reception.

If you are located in an area which causes interference, adjust the tone control to the bass position; this will eliminate noise. When the car moves out of the noisy area, the control can be moved back to the desired position.

Due to transmitter station locations, occasionally the car will pass through a low signal area. For example, when passing underneath a viaduct, the noise level momentarily increases, causing a pop or short “hiss” in the speaker. This should not be confused with electrical interference sometimes experienced with AM radios.

Because the car is moving and the environment and reception conditions are constantly changing, it is easily seen why mobility can be a great enemy of good FM and FM stereo reception.

Operating your radio for a few days will familiarize you with FM reception in automobiles. The life-like sound quality and program content of FM will give you many hours of enjoyment.

## **AM RECEPTION**

To receive in the AM (broadcast band) mode simply depress the AM push-button.

If you are experiencing poor reception in this mode, proceed as follows:

- A. Obtain a small flat-bladed screwdriver.
- B. Adjust the tuning control to a weak station in the area of 1500 KHz and turn the “Trim” adjustment located on rear of chassis, to the left or right until the station appears loud and clear.

This is all that is required; the “Trim” adjustment tunes your AM antenna to match the radio.

# Section IV

## Maintenance and Adjustment

The COBRA 55XLR combination transceiver is especially designed for the environment encountered in mobile installations. The use of all solid state circuitry and its light weight result in high reliability. Should a failure occur, however, replace parts only with identical parts. Refer to the schematic diagram and parts list.

### NOTE

If the performance described in the OPERATING and MAINTENANCE AND ADJUSTMENT section is not obtained, review the operating instructions to ensure that proper procedures were followed. If a problem still exists, refer to WARRANTY SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS on the last page of this manual.

### FCC WARNING

Federal law (FCC part 95, Section 95.97d) states that only a United States licensed 1st or 2nd Class Radio Operator may tune the transmitter to this transceiver or make adjustments of the radio frequency section. Citizens Band operators may not make these adjustments, unless they hold a 1st or 2nd Class Radio Operator's license.

# Section V

## Appendix

Citizens Band radio operators have largely adopted the “10-code” for standard questions and answers. Its use permits faster communications and better understanding in noisy areas. The following table lists some of the more common codes and their meanings.

### 10 CODE

Code	Meaning	Code	Meaning
10-1	Receiving poorly	10-29	Time is up for contact
10-2	Receiving well	10-30	Does not conform to FCC rules
10-3	Stop transmitting	10-32	I will give you a radio check
10-4	OK, message received	10-33	EMERGENCY TRAFFIC
10-5	Relay message	10-34	Trouble at this station
10-6	Busy, stand by	10-35	Confidential information
10-7	Out of service, leaving air	10-36	Correct time is
10-8	In service, subject to call	10-37	Wrecker needed at
10-9	Repeat message	10-38	Ambulance needed at
10-10	Transmission completed, standing by	10-39	Your message delivered
10-11	Talking too rapidly	10-41	Please turn to channel
10-12	Visitors present	10-42	Traffic accident at
10-13	Advise Weather/Road conditions	10-43	Traffic Tie up at
10-16	Make pick up at	10-44	I have a message for you
10-17	Urgent business	10-45	All units within range please report
10-18	Anything for us?		
10-19	Nothing for you, return to base	10-50	Break channel
10-20	My location is	10-60	What is next message number?
10-21	Call by telephone	10-62	Unable to copy, use phone
10-22	Report in person to	10-63	Net directed to
10-23	Stand by	10-64	Net clear
10-24	Completed last assignment	10-65	Awaiting your next message/assignment
10-25	Can you contact	10-67	All units comply
10-26	Disregard last information		
10-27	I am moving to channel	10-70	Fire at
10-28	Identify your station		

## 10 CODE (Continued)

Code	Meaning	Code	Meaning
10-71	Proceed with transmission in sequence	10-91	Talk closer to mike
10-73	Speed trap at	10-92	Your transmitter is out of adjustment
10-75	You are causing interference	10-93	Check my frequency on this channel
10-77	Negative contact	10-94	Please give me a long count
10-81	Reserve hotel room for	10-95	Transmit dead carrier for 5 seconds
10-82	Reserve room for	10-99	Mission completed, all units secure
10-84	My telephone number is	10-200	Police needed at
10-85	My address is		
10-89	Radio repairman needed at		
10-90	I have TVI		

### A FEW RULES THAT SHOULD BE OBEYED

1. You must identify your official licensed call sign at the beginning and end of every conversation.
2. You are not allowed to carry on a conversation with another station for more than five minutes at a time without taking a one-minute break, to give others a chance to use the channel.
3. You are not allowed to blast others off the air by over-powering them with illegally amplified transmitter power, or illegally high antennas.
4. You can't use CB to promote illegal activities.
5. You are not allowed to use profanity.
6. You may not play music in your CB.
7. You may not use your CB to sell merchandise or professional services.

## HOW YOUR CB CAN SERVE YOU

- Warn of traffic tie ups ahead.
- Provide weather and road information.
- Provide help fast in event of emergency or breakdown.
- Suggest good spots to eat and sleep.
- Make long trips more interesting, and help keep you awake.
- Provide direct contact with your office or home.
- Make friends for you as you travel.
- Provide “local information” to find your destination.
- Help law enforcement officers by reporting drunk and reckless drivers.

Colonel Samuel S. Smith of the Missouri Highway Patrol called the number of drunken drivers, wrong-way drivers and speeders reported by CBers as “amazing.” He said, that even the “Smokey Bear” warnings don’t shake their beliefs that “the potential benefits of CB radio to law enforcement are so great that they far outweigh the disadvantages.” In regards to CB radar warnings to other CBers, Colonel Smith said cheerfully that “We’ve overheard warnings being relayed to truckers long after our operations have been discontinued . . . so we actually receive a residual benefit from these warnings.”

## USE CHANNEL 9 FOR EMERGENCY MESSAGES ONLY

FCC gives the following examples of permitted and prohibited types of communications for use on Channel 9. These are guidelines and are not intended to be all-inclusive.

<b>Permitted</b>	<b>Example Message</b>
Yes	“A tornado sighted six miles north of town.”
No	“This is observation post number 10. No tornado sighted.”
Yes	“I am out of gas on Interstate 95.”
No	“I am out of gas in my driveway.”
Yes	“There is a four-car collision at Exit 10 on the Beltway, send police and ambulance.”
No	“Traffic is moving smoothly on the Beltway.”
Yes	“Base to Unit 1, the Weather Bureau has just issued a thunderstorm warning. Bring the sailboat into port.”
No	“Attention all motorists. The Weather Bureau advises that the snow tomorrow will accumulate 4 to 6 inches.”
Yes	“There is a fire in the building on the corner of 6th and Main Streets.”
No	“This is Halloween patrol unit number 3. Everything is quiet here.”

## **WARRANTY SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Refer to the MAINTENANCE section of your Cobra instruction manual for adjustments that may be applicable.
2. If the above-mentioned procedures do not correct the problem you are experiencing with your unit, pack it securely (preferably in the original carton or double-packed). Enclose a letter describing the problem and include your name and address. Deliver to, or ship PREPAID (UPS preferred) to the nearest Cobra authorized service agency (see list enclosed with unit).

If your list of authorized Cobra service agencies has been misplaced, contact your local dealer for the name of your nearest service agency, or write to:

### ***Service Department***

Cobra Communications Product Group  
DYNASCAN CORPORATION  
2815 West Irving Park Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60618



## LIMITED ONE YEAR IN-DASH RADIO WARRANTY

DYNASCAN CORPORATION warrants to the original purchaser only that its COBRA Citizens Band Radio, and the component parts thereof, will be free from defects in workmanship and materials for a period of one (1) year from the date of purchase.

DYNASCAN will repair or replace, without charge, and at its option, defective radios or component parts upon delivery to an authorized COBRA service contractor or the factory service department, accompanied by proof of the date of purchase in the form of a sales receipt.

For your convenience we suggest you contact your dealer, who may be authorized to make repairs or can refer you to the nearest service contractor. If warranty service cannot be obtained locally, please send the unit to Cobra Communications Service, 2815 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60618, [freight prepaid and] properly packaged to avoid damage in shipment.

[To obtain warranty service, this CB radio must be registered by completing and mailing the enclosed warranty registration card to DYNASCAN Cobra Communications, P.O. Box 35148, Chicago, Illinois 60635 within five (5) days from the date of purchase.]

**EXCLUSIONS: This warranty is limited to the radio and does not apply to externally caused static or motor noise, or to antenna problems.**

As indicated in your product instruction booklet, certain COBRA models are suitable for dash board installation without modification of the dash. In other cases professional installation is recommended. In either event, DYNASCAN does not pay for any costs of installation or for removal of the radio and shall not be responsible for damages to the product or the automobile resulting from improper installation.

This warranty also does not apply in the event of misuse or abuse of the product or as a result of unauthorized alterations or repairs. It is void if the serial number is altered, defaced or removed.

DYNASCAN shall not be responsible for damages to tapes, tape decks, speakers, automobile electrical systems or for any consequential damages, including without limitation loss of use of the radio or automobile.

This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, and no dealer or other person or representative is authorized to assume any other liability in connection with the sale of this product.

This warranty gives you specific rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. Some states do not allow limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation and exclusion may not apply to you.

### NOTE

For future reference, jot down the serial number (shown on the FCC identification plate of your COBRA 55XLR) below:

SERIAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_



Cobra Communications Product Group

**DYNASCAN CORPORATION**

6460 W. Cortland Street

Chicago, Illinois 60635