Colorado Department of Corrections

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Electronic Monitoring Overview

Behavioral Interventions (BI) Monitoring provides electronic monitoring equipment, installation, de-installation, repair and access to their electronic monitoring web site, Total Access, for the electronic monitoring (EM) of DOC offenders. BI subcontracts with Protocol Government Solutions which provides EM monitoring center services and integration with the C-WISE management information system. Additionally, C-WISE provides pager monitoring services and a telephonic curfew check service to the DOC.

EM equipment types and uses include:

- Radio frequency (RF) monitoring transmitters paired with landline or cellular base stations for curfew compliance
- Global positioning system (GPS) paired with advanced forward link trilateration location (AFTL) transmitters with embedded cellular communication for curfew compliance, exclusion zone enforcement, and tracking movement in the community
- Continuous alcohol monitoring transdermal alcohol detection (TAD) paired with a landline base station to detect alcohol use/abuse that can also monitor curfew compliance using RF technology
- Electronic pagers paired with automatic number identifier (ANI) technology for documenting return calls for curfew compliance and tracking movement in the community
- Curfew checks using a random call generation program for documenting curfew compliance

As of September 25, 2013, there are 1,448 offenders on EM. The number of offenders by equipment type:

- RF-903 (312 landline/591 cellular)
- GPS/AFTL-372 (230 active/142 passive)
- TAD-30 (14 TAD only/16 TAD with RF)
- Pager-66
- Curfew check-77

The costs for electronic monitoring in FY 12/13 were $1,624,786.00.

Monitoring center services include the scheduling of installation, repair, and de-installation of EM equipment through the vendors field service offices at 26 locations throughout the State. Additionally, alerts are processed through the monitoring center and responded to by monitoring center operators. In FY 12/13 the monitoring center processed 283,246 alerts including paired alerts that closed the original alert. Operators conducted 279,122 calls in response to the alerts received. Initial response includes attempting telephone contact with the offender to try and resolve the alert. If unable to resolve an alert within the established timeframe, the operator will escalate the alert to the supervising Community Parole Officer (CPO), Officer's Supervisor, or State on-call. Transmitter tamper alerts are escalated upon receipt to the supervising CPO or to the on-call Electronic Monitoring Response Team if the alert occurs after business hours.

EM is not a panacea. Depending on the technology utilized, EM is a tool that can enforce a curfew, tell a CPO where an offender has been, when an offender goes into a restricted area, or uses/abuses alcohol. EM cannot prevent illegal activity or tell a CPO how an offender is behaving while at a particular location. Compliance with EM is voluntary and the equipment can be removed or disabled by an offender. The receipt of an alert is an indication that something is amiss that the CPO needs to investigate to establish probable cause of a parole violation prior to arresting, or seeking a warrant for the arrest of, an offender.