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Model: M538-HT

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Dakota Alert M538-HT is a MURS (Multi-Use Radio Service) wireless VHF transceiver designed for two-way communication. It operates on license-free frequencies, making it suitable for various applications requiring reliable short-range communication. This handheld unit can transmit and receive messages from other MURS devices, such as the M538-BS Base Station and MURS Alert Transmitters.



Image 1.1: Dakota Alert M538-HT MURS Wireless VHF Transceiver.

Key Features:

- Two-way voice communication capability.
- Alert icon provides visual indication of received alert signals.
- MURS license-free operation.
- Rechargeable AA batteries (included) provide approximately 40 hours of operation per charge.
- Real-time monitoring.
- 5 channels with 38 privacy sub-channels.
- Earphone jack for private listening.

2. SETUP

The M538-HT transceiver is designed for straightforward setup. Ensure the unit is charged before initial use.

2.1 Battery Installation and Charging

1. Locate the battery compartment on the back of the transceiver.

2. Open the compartment and insert the 6 AA rechargeable batteries, observing correct polarity.
3. Close the battery compartment securely.
4. Connect the provided charging adapter to the transceiver and a power outlet.
5. Allow the unit to charge for 24 hours for the first charge or if batteries are fully depleted. For normal daily use, overnight charging is sufficient.

Caution: Only use rechargeable AA batteries. Attempting to charge alkaline batteries within the unit may cause damage.

2.2 Initial Power On and Channel Selection

1. Turn the power/volume knob clockwise to power on the unit.
2. Use the 'MODE' button to cycle through available functions.
3. Use the up/down arrow buttons to select one of the 5 MURS channels.
4. To set a privacy sub-channel, refer to the detailed programming instructions in the full manual (not provided here). The M538-HT supports 38 privacy sub-channels.



Image 2.1: Dakota Alert MURS system components including the MURS Alert Transmitter (MAT), MURS Alert Probe Sensor (MAPS), M538-BS Base Station, and M538-HT Handheld.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The M538-HT transceiver allows for two-way communication and reception of alerts from compatible MURS devices.

3.1 Two-Way Communication

1. Ensure the unit is powered on and set to the desired channel and privacy sub-channel.
2. To transmit, press and hold the 'PTT' (Push-To-Talk) button. Speak clearly into the microphone.
3. Release the 'PTT' button to listen for a response.
4. The 'MON' button can be used to temporarily disable the privacy sub-channel and listen to all activity on the selected channel.

3.2 Receiving Alerts

When paired with a MURS Alert Transmitter (e.g., a driveway monitor), the M538-HT will sound an alert and display an alert icon when motion is detected or a signal is received from the transmitter. The alert will typically indicate the zone from which the signal originated.



Image 3.1: Close-up of the Dakota Alert M538-HT Handheld Transceiver.

3.3 Range Considerations

The M538-HT operates effectively up to 2 miles in open air with a clear line of sight. Environmental factors such as terrain, buildings, and foliage can reduce the effective range.

4. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your M538-HT transceiver.

4.1 Battery Care

- Regularly charge the rechargeable AA batteries.
- If the unit will not be used for an extended period, remove the batteries to prevent leakage.
- Replace batteries when they no longer hold a charge effectively.

4.2 Cleaning

- Wipe the unit with a soft, damp cloth.
- Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.

4.3 Environmental Considerations

While the M538-HT is designed for durability, it is not fully waterproof. Avoid prolonged exposure to heavy rain or submersion in water.

WEATHER RESISTANT

Protecting your peace of mind, every moment of every day.



Batteries last about 6 months in residential use



Image 4.1: Dakota Alert systems are designed to be weather resistant for outdoor use.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your M538-HT transceiver, refer to the following common solutions:

- **No Power:** Ensure batteries are correctly installed and fully charged. Check the power/volume knob.
- **No Reception/Transmission:** Verify that both transmitting and receiving units are on the same channel and privacy sub-channel. Check the antenna connection. Ensure units are within range and not obstructed by significant barriers.
- **Poor Audio Quality:** Check battery levels. Ensure the microphone is not obstructed during transmission. Adjust volume.
- **Alerts Not Triggering:** For MURS Alert Transmitters, ensure they are properly positioned and functioning. Check battery levels in the transmitter. Verify the M538-HT is set to receive alerts from the correct zone.

For further assistance, contact Dakota Alert customer support.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Product Dimensions	7.75 x 6.25 x 2.75 inches
Item Weight	1 ounces
Item Model Number	M538-HT
Batteries	6 AA batteries required (rechargeable included)
Frequency Range	151.820~154.600 MHz
Number of Channels	5
Talking Range Maximum	2 Miles (line of sight)
Water Resistance Level	Water Resistant
Color	Black

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Dakota Alert is a US-based company with over 30 years of experience in wireless security systems. For specific warranty information or technical support, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Dakota Alert website. Dakota Alert is committed to providing quality products and customer service.

For additional resources and product information, you may visit the [Dakota Alert Store on Amazon](#).