

# Glossary of Terms

## Tab 7 03.12.14

Activate	<i>(verb)</i> Describes the process of originating the transmission of the EAS header codes, attention signal, emergency message and EOM code that also complies with the visual message requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 79.2(a)(2)
Activator	The entity which initiates an EAS test or alert. IE: State, County or Local Emergency Management, NOAA, Any Authorized COG.
Activation	The initiation of the EAS by transmission of EAS header codes.
ASCII Code	A standard set of text characters with numerical equivalents as defined by the American Standard Code for Information Interchange.
Atom	Atom is the name of an XML-based Web content and metadata syndication format, and an application-level protocol for publishing and editing Web resources belonging to periodically updated websites.
ATOM RSS Feed	A specific type of RSS feed. RSS stands for both Rich Site Summary or Really Simple Syndication but it always refers to the same technology. IPAWS-OPEN uses an ATOM RSS Feed.
Attention Signal	Eight seconds of two tones used as an audio alert in an actual EAS activation or RMT. 853 and 960 Hz. Broadcasting these tones or simulation thereof for any other use is strictly forbidden by FCC Part 11 rules.
Authority	<i>(noun)</i> Describes the source of responsibility and the right to activate or request activation of an emergency alert on the relay network, utilizing the traditional or legacy EAS dissemination or the Common Alerting Protocol. The source of authority for EAS resides with federal, state, county and local emergency management and public safety officials as outlined in EAS plans.
Automatic Interruption	The automatic encoding and transmission of EAS codes for preselected events.
CAP	The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is a simple but general format for exchanging all-hazard emergency alerts and public warnings over all kinds of networks. CAP allows a consistent warning message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different warning systems, thus increasing warning effectiveness while simplifying the warning task.
Capability	<i>(noun)</i> An attribute describing the technical ability of an entity, possessing the equipment to activate code and voice a legacy EAS or CAP message, upon the request of an authorized entity, on the relay network. This ability may reside with a government agency, a CAP

	vendor who provides this service or a broadcast entity. This relationship structure is outlined in the EAS plan.
City/County of License	The city or county listed on a broadcast license as the station location.
CIV	The 3 character originator code in an EAS alert header for Civil Authority
Class D FM	A station whose output power is 10 watts or less.
Closed Circuit Test	(noun) Tests that do not reach the public, but do allow for reception by EAS participants for logging and evaluation.
COG	A Federal, State, or local alerting authority that has authorization to use IPAWS is designated as a Collaborative Operating Group or "COG"
DBS	Direct Broadcast Satellite. A service intended to deliver satellite signals directly to consumers using small, relatively inexpensive receive stations.
DEM	Division/Department of Emergency Management.
DES	Division/Department of Emergency Services.
EAN	Emergency Action Notification. A national level EAS alert.
EAN Network	The interconnection of the federal government with national networks and program suppliers used to disseminate the EAN message.
EAS	Emergency Alert System. EAS is comprised of broadcast networks; cable networks and program suppliers; AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations; LPTV stations; cable systems; and other entities and industries operating on an organized basis during emergencies at the National, Local, or State levels. It requires that at a minimum all participants use a common EAS protocol, as defined in the FCC Rules Part 11, to send and receive emergency alerts. EAS replaced EBS. Also a 3 character originator code in an EAS alert header for Broadcast Stations or Cable System.
EAS alert	An EAS activation in an actual emergency.
EAS Decoder	A device which monitors sources and decodes incoming EAS messages.
EAS Encoder	A device used by EAS participants to originate EAS alerts by creating the EAS codes for transmission to other participants and to the public.
EAS Operating Handbook	An operator handbook from the FCC that provides EAS participants a summary of instructions for conducting EAS notifications and tests of national, state and local alerts. The handbook is required to be located at each operator position and be immediately available to staff responsible for authenticating and initiating emergency action

	notifications, alerts and tests.
EAS Participants	Entities required under the Commission's rules to comply with EAS rules, e.g., analog radio and television stations, wired and wireless cable television systems, DBS, DTV, SDARS, digital cable, DAB, and wireline video systems.
EAS test	EAS activation for testing purposes.
EBS	Emergency Broadcast System. An outdated system for providing emergency information to the public. It was Replaced by EAS in January, 1997.
End of Message code	ASCII data string which signifies the end of an EAS message. (EOM)
EOC	Emergency Operations Center.
Event Code	A three-character ASCII code in the EAS header that denotes the type of event for which an EAS test or alert is issued.
FIPS Codes	Federal Information Processing System number assigned to states and counties.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.
FCC Mapbook	An FCC document which organizes all broadcast stations according to their State, EAS Local Area and EAS designation [11.21]. This list is attached to the state plan by the FCC.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Administration. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.
Gatekeeper	(noun) The entity, as identified in the EAS plan, having ultimate authority to request activation (e.g. state/local emergency management, state police and local public safety) and the responsibility to insure that the requested activations meet the standards of acceptability as to not saturate the system with unwarranted activations.
Header Code	A single string of intelligent ASCII data that includes the originator, event, location, time period, and other basic information concerning an EAS test or alert.
Initiate	(verb) To begin an action that results in activation for legacy EAS or CAP messages, by or at the request of federal, state, county and local emergency management and public safety officials as outlined in EAS plans.
Initiator	Incident Commander, Police, Fire, Emergency Manager or NOAA requesting an activation of EAS.

Intermediary Device.	An intermediary device is a stand-alone device that carries out the function of receiving and/or acquiring and decoding EAS messages formatted in the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), and converting such messages into a format that can be inputted into a separate EAS encoder/decoder.
ISAWS	Idaho State Alert & Warning System. A State-operated IP based network for originating and delivering alerts sent by State and local government entities on redundant server networks for broadcasters to poll for alerts. Idaho also has the added feature of voluntary enrollment for notification via cell phone, email, home phone, mobile devices such as PDA's and pagers, or any combination of the preceding.
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.
IPAWS-OPEN	The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Open Platform for Emergency Networks. A FEMA operated IP based network delivering national level alerts to broadcasters utilizing ATOM RSS Feed technology. All broadcast stations must poll the IPAWS-OPEN server for alert information.
Julian Calendar	A method of specifying the date by the number of days which have passed since the first day of January in a Year.
Key Source	A source which is central to the dissemination of emergency alerts and information, such as an NP, SRN, LRN, or LP broadcast station.
L-Code	The identification in the EAS header of an EAS Participant transmitting or retransmitting an EAS message. (Station call sign, NWS, WAEOC, etc.)
LAECC	Local Area Emergency Communications Committee. Sometimes also abbreviated LECC.
LECC	Local Emergency Communication Committee.
Local Operational Area	A Local area is a geographical area of contiguous communities with a common EAS Plan and may include counties of more than one state.
Local Area Plan	The plan developed by a committee in each local operational area which outlines the EAS system and procedures for that particular area. The local area plan for the appropriate operational area is included in this State plan. See Tab 12.
Location Code	A six-digit ASCII code in the EAS header that specifies the location of an emergency utilizing the five character FIPS code of a state and county, and a sixth character to designate one of nine divisions of a county.
LP	Local Primary. A key source within a local area that is the primary source of analog EAS programming for that local area.

LPTV	Low-power television station.
LRN	Local Relay Network. A system of facilities used to distribute Local EAS activation and programming throughout a local area.
MDS Station	Multi-point Distribution System station. A facility which delivers a signal to several specific locations.
Monitoring Assignment	The assignment made by the SECC to each broadcast station and cable system designating the sources each facility should monitor for incoming EAS messages. See Tab 10.
National Alert	EAS alert of national origin.
National Control Point Procedures	Those national EAS procedures used only by national networks and program suppliers.
NIC	National Information Center. A source of official federal government information.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.
NOAA Weather Radio	A service of the National Weather Service that provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information and any weather-related emergency warnings to a local area. NWR uses seven VHF radio frequencies.
NP	National Primary (NP). Stations that are the primary entry point for Presidential messages delivered by FEMA. These stations are responsible for broadcasting a Presidential alert to the public and to State Primary stations within their broadcast range.
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio.
NWS	National Weather Service. NWS is an operation of NOAA that is directly responsible for issuing local weather-related emergency alerts and warnings in addition to day-to-day forecasts and other weather activities.
Originator	(noun) Refers to the authorized party who requests the activation of the legacy EAS or CAP message. It specifically refers to the ORG code outlined in 47 C.F.R. § 11.31.
Originator Code	A three-character ASCII code in the EAS header that identifies the entity which originates an EAS test or alert. CIV=Civil Authority, EAS=Broadcast Station or Cable, WXR=National Weather Service.
PEP	Primary Entry Point. The PEP system is a nationwide network of broadcast stations and other entities designated by FEMA and the FCC connected with government activation points. It is used to distribute EAS messages that are formatted in the EAS protocol including the EAN and EAS national test.

PN	Participating National. Broadcast stations, cable systems, or MDS stations which monitor primary sources of EAS programming and directly feed emergency alerts to the public. The FCC eliminated the Non Participating status therefore all broadcasters and subject cable operators are designated as PN.
Preselected Code	An EAS event which the operator of EAS equipment has chosen to be automatically encoded and retransmitted upon reception.
Protocol	A standard set of guidelines by which digital information is encoded and decoded, including the common code structure, the character set used, the sequence and timing of codes, and modulation technique used for radio transmission.
Program Priorities	The precedence of the information that must be transmitted during an EAS activation, namely national, local and state activations in that order.
Re-Transmission Agreement	Signed agreements between the SECC and certain broadcast (LP) stations that define what the station will monitor and what types of activations will be re-transmitted.
Relay Network	(noun) Describes the links and paths from warning origination points to EAS Participants for legacy EAS and CAP messages.
Response	(verb) A descriptive for the actions an emergency management asset brings to bear to manage an emergency to a quick and successful outcome.
Resource	(noun) A descriptive for a supply that is drawn upon of materials, personnel or information that are managed during an emergency to help bring the event to a fast and successful outcome.
RMT	Required Monthly Test. A coordinated monthly test of EAS operations involving the full receiving and transmission of EAS codes, attention signal, EAS test programming, and EAS end-of-message codes.
RWT	Required Weekly Test. An independent weekly test of EAS equipment only involving the decoding and encoding of EAS header codes and end-of-message codes.
SAME	Specific Area Message Encoding is a method of identifying the local area to which an alert message applies.
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee.
Sources	Monitor inputs to EAS decoders. CAP or analog radio systems.
SP	State Primary. A primary source of EAS state programming which can originate with a Governor or designated representative, such as a state's emergency operations officer.

SR	State Relay. An entity which receives and retransmits EAS activations in the State Relay Network to assist in bringing a state activation to all Local Areas of a state.
SRN	State Relay Network. A State Relay radio system in Washington on 155.475 Mhz. In Idaho on 154.86 Mhz. A system of facilities used to distribute state EAS activations and programming across the state.
State EAS Plan	This document, which outlines the organization and implementation of EAS in Washington State. It includes monitoring assignments, actions to be taken in emergency activations, and other guidance for broadcasters and cable personnel in use of the EAS.
State/Local Alert	EAS alert of state or local origin.
Termination Script	Specific scripts, specified in the State Plan (for local and state EAS activations), which signal the end of an EAS activation.
Tertiary	Third in importance
Test Script	The audio portion of the RMT. The actual wording to the test script is decided upon by the SECC and included in the state plan.
Time-Duration Code	A four-digit ASCII code in the EAS header that defines how long the EAS activation is valid.
TTS	Text To Speech
Translator	A radio or television facility which receives a signal on one frequency and retransmits it on another frequency.
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time. The world-wide common time standard that is used in EAS headers for time stamp. (French: Temps Universel Coordonné, UTC)
Valid Code	An EAS header which has been matched bit-for-bit with one of two other received headers thereby checked for validity.
WA-CAP	Washington Common Alert Protocol: A State-operated IP based network for originating and delivering alerts sent by State and local government entities on redundant server networks for broadcasters to poll for alerts. This IP CAP alerting is the primary method for the activation of EAS in Washington State, with analog alerting being secondary. The current WA-CAP provider is MyState USA.
Wireline Video System	The system of a wireline common carrier used to provide video programming service.
WRSAME	Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoder. A device used by the NWS to broadcast data on the NWR system for day-to-day forecasts and weather-related emergency announcements.