Washington State

EAS Handbook

Approved by the Washington State Emergency Communications Committee
this 13th day of May, 2014

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The Intent of EAS is to Save Lives and Property

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Communications Commission asks that the State Emergency Alert System Committee, known as the State Emergency Communication Committee ("SECC") adopt a State EAS Plan and create monitoring assignments for each broadcast station and subject cable system.

The Washington State EAS Plan, contained herein, is divided into 32 segments.

The first portion is an overview of how the various facets of this State's EAS systems operate.

The following 31 segments, commonly called Tab's, deal with specific aspects of the EAS in the State.

The final segment, Tab 31, contains an Index of the Tabs as well as indicating the entity that is responsible for keeping the information in the various Tab's Current as well as the release date of the information contained therein.

The reader is cautioned that this is a dynamic document and one where various elements are frequently changed.

Changes to the Washington State EAS Plan are distributed via the Washington State EAS Remailer. Parties may subscribe to this service by going to:
http://sea.sbe16.org/mailman/listinfo/eas-wa

The entire plan is also maintained on the Washington State Emergency Management Web-Site and can be accessed by going to:
WWW

I. Intent and Purpose of this Plan

This Plan is the FCC-required document outlining the organization and implementation of the State of Washington Emergency Alert System (EAS). It is the guideline for Washington State broadcasters and cable television operators, and state and local entities authorized to use EAS (per TAB definitions) to determine:

A. EAN and Other National Level (Analog) Message Distribution

- Mandated and optional monitoring assignments.
- Codes to be used in the EAS Header sequence.
- Schedule of the Required Monthly Tests (RMTs) which must be relayed by all broadcasters and cable operators.
- National Weather Service (NWS)/NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) participation.

B. Use of National and State Level (Digital) CAP Distribution systems

- Mandated and optional monitoring assignments.
- Any other elements of the EAS which are unique to this state.

This Plan is an adjunct to the FCC EAS Rules, and is not meant to be a summary, in whole or in part, of those rules. Consult FCC Rules Part 11 for complete rules regarding the Emergency Alert System.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL NOTE

A WORD OF CAUTION: The Emergency Management/Services community has a valuable tool in gaining direct access to all area broadcasters and subject cable operators via the EAS. However, **if not used prudently, you put yourself in danger of losing this tool. Broadcasters and cable operators are expecting the EAS to be used only for very serious emergencies**. Keep in mind two things. First, some broadcasters and cable operators have their EAS decoders set on Automatic Mode. There is no one there to screen your message and decide if it should be aired. They are depending on you to send an EAS Alert **only for a very serious emergency**. The first time you trigger the system for a frivolous event, you will **lose** the confidence of your area broadcasters and cable operators. The second thing to remember is that broadcasters and cable operators participate in the local-level EAS on a voluntary basis. No one can force them to carry your EAS Alerts. Maintain a good relationship with your local broadcasters and cable operators, and they will come through for you in a crisis.

II. The National, State, and Local EAS: Participation and Priorities

TWO REDUNDANT SYSTEMS MAINTAINED

IMPORTANT: EAS distribution utilizes Digital/CAP and Analog/S.A.M.E. Both systems must be maintained in operational readiness and tested regularly in order to ensure system redundancy.

A. National EAS Participation

All broadcasters and subject cable operators are required to participate in the National-level EAS. Participating stations and cable operators must carry the Presidential message. In addition, all broadcasters and subject cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly Test (RWT), and once a month, must retransmit the Required Monthly Test within 60 minutes of receiving it on their EAS decoder. These actions are required of all broadcasters and subject cable operators.

See Tab 14: National Level Systems

B. State/Local EAS Participation

Participation in the State and/or Local Area EAS is voluntary for all broadcasters. Participants in the State and/or Local Area EAS must follow the procedures found in this Plan.

C. Conditions of EAS Participation

Participation in this Plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit broadcast licensees from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Broadcast stations and cable systems transmitting EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority. Management of each broadcast station and cable system may exercise discretion regarding the broadcast of emergency information and instructions to the general public. This authority is provided by FCC Rules and Regulations.

D. EAS Priorities

A national activation of the EAS for a Presidential message with the Event code EAN as specified in §11.31 must take priority over any other message and preempt it if it is in progress.

III. The Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC)

The responsibility for administration of this Plan rests with the members of the Washington SECC. The SECC Officers are appointed in accordance with Tab 9 of this plan. SECC members include those persons described therein.

See Tab 1: Washington SECC Membership List

See Tab 9: SECC By-Laws

IV. Organization and Concepts of the Washington State EAS

See Tab 22: Process Flowchart for State & Local Emergency Messages

A. EAS Message Distribution Methods

1. National Analog Message Distribution

The primary role for EAS is the broadcast of National Level EAS (Presidential) Messages to the public. These messages are associated with the Event Code EAN or Emergency Action Notification or other tests of that system using the event code NPT.

National Level Message Sources. All of the following systems utilize the SAME EAS protocol as specified in the FCC's EAS Rules.

a. There are several **Primary Facilities** for National Level Messages. These facilities receive their messages from FEMA

1) The Primary Entry Point (PEP) radio station in Seattle, KIRO-AM-710.
2) Designated participating NPR radio stations
3) Designated participating affiliates using the Premiere Radio Networks

b. There are several **Secondary Facilities** for National Level Messages. These facilities receive their messages from the Primary Sources (above)

1) The State Relay Network (SRN) (also known as the State Primary or SP)
2) Certain designated NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) Systems
3) Certain designated Local Primary Stations (LPs) that receive from a Primary Facility

c. There are several **Tertiary Facilities** for National Level Messages. These facilities receive their messages from either the Primary or Secondary facilities listed above.

1) Local Primary Stations or facilities (LP)
2) Designated NWR facilities
3) Other designated facilities or systems

See Tab 14: National Analog Level Distribution

The SRN is the primary distribution system for those stations and cable systems that cannot monitor KIRO-AM 710 for the receipt of national EAS messages.

See Tab 20: Premiere Network Distribution

See Tab 4: State Relay Network Map

See Tab 5: Western Washington EAS Matrix

See Tab 6: Eastern Washington EAS Matrix

2. National Digital (CAP) Message Distribution

The FCC requires that all Stations and Subject Cable Systems be connected to the FEMA/IPAWS CAP Server. There are several characteristics that differentiate it from the legacy analog distribution system.

a. This system distributes messages using the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) which may contain textual as well as audio-file information as well as other attributes supported by the CAP

b. The architecture of this system is Point-Multi-Point.There are no in-State relay or distribution systems as there are with the analog system.

c. It does not distribute EAN's or Presidential Messages

d. An Internet connection is required.

3. Washington State Analog Message Distribution

SRN (State Relay Network or SP). A State-operated VHF radio system which originates from the State Emergency Operations Center. The SRN consists of a state-wide microwave system feeding a number of VHF radio transmitters all operating on 155.475 Mhz. The SRN system is a primary source of State analog EAS messages These systems shall utilize the SAME EAS protocol as specified in the FCC's EAS Rules

See Tab 4: State Relay Network Map

4. Washington State Digital (CAP) Message Distribution

Washington State operates a CAP Distribution system hosted by AlertSense, Inc. that provides a means for EAS messages originating in the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) (and or local governmental entities) to be distributed to all participating Broadcast and Cable systems state-wide. This system is internet based and requires participants to have their EAS equipment so connected. This IP based CAP alerting is the primary method for the activation of EAS in Washington State, with analog alerting being secondary. This system is frequently referred to a WaCAP (Pronounced Wah-CAP)

Alternatively, Local Areas may utilize the facilities of FEMA/IPAWS provided their participation is approved by FEMA.

5. Local Operational EAS Area Analog Message Distribution

Local areas consist of one or more counties and cities located within who are sources of EAS messages. Messages originating in local-area EOC's, dispatch centers or other designated locations are distributed to area participating broadcast stations and cable systems by various means. The primary vehicle is the Local Relay Network (LRN) Which is typically, but not limited to, a radio or other wireless communications system that

provides point-multi-point distribution. These systems shall utilize the SAME EAS protocol as specified in the FCC's EAS Rules

See Tab 5 or 6: EAS Matrix for LRN Frequencies

See Tab 7: Glossary of EAS Terms

6. Local Operational EAS Area Digital (CAP) Messages Distribution

Local Operational EAS Areas make use of the Washington State CAP system (WaCAP) hosted by AlertSense, Inc. that provides a means for EAS messages originating in Local EOC's or Dispatch Centers to be distributed to all participating Broadcast and Cable systems in that or adjacent areas. This system is internet based and requires participants to have their EAS equipment connected so connected. This IP based CAP alerting is the primary method for the activation of EAS in Washington State, with analog alerting being secondary.

Alternatively, Local Areas may utilize the facilities of FEMA/IPAWS provided their participation is approved by FEMA.

B. Delivery Plan /Analog Monitoring Assignments

1. EAS Matrix

This plan shows how EAS Messages are distributed to every broadcast and subject cable system in the State. This is accomplished in two ways: Tabs 5 (Western Washington) and Tab 6 (Eastern Washington). These Tabs contain a matrix that provides a listing of sources where various levels of EAS messages can be obtained and is broken down by Local Operational EAS area.

a. Counties contained within the Local Operational EAS Area
b. Listing of Local Primary (LP) facilities
c. Listing of sources where Local Primaries may obtain National or other messages
d. Listing of locations to the SRN (SP) facility serving each area
e. A list of NWR facilities serving each area
f. A list of LRN Frequencies for each area
g. A listing of EAN sources by frequency, for each area.

2. Monitor Sources

Each Broadcast station and Subject Cable System is required by the FCC to first monitor two sources that can provide that facility with EAN or National Level Messaging. These should be Monitor Source #1 and #2 on all EAS equipment. Every facility should, first, attempt to monitor facilities that are closer to the source, Every facility should – first-endeavor to monitor EAS Sources (PEP, NPR or Premiere facilities). If that is not possible, then chose a Secondary Level source and if that is not possible then monitor a Tertiary facility.

To assure a robust EAS system that better insures the station or cable system will receive messages from other participating sources of EAS Information the SECC

encourages stations and systems to monitor more than the FCC required two analog sources. For example: NOAA Weather Radio; Local Relay Network (LRN); State Relay Network (SRN/SP).

See Tabs 5 & 6 - EAS MATRIX

3. Monitoring Assignments

Detailed Monitoring Assignments for all broadcast stations and subject cable systems in Washington State are included in Tab 10 in this Plan. Tab 10 is divided into sections applicable to each Local EAS Operational Area. Each facility's State Plan binder must contain a copy of the Tab 10 subdivision applicable to its Local EAS Area.

See Tab 10: Applicable Local Monitoring Assignments

STATEMENT REGARDING FCC EAS COMPLIANCE

The FCC expects the SECC to create a system of Monitoring Assignments within the State EAS Plan that will provide a verifiable and redundant means whereby EAN's will be distributed to every FCC Licensee. Tabs 5, 6 and 14 provide a top-down look at how this is accomplished. Tab 10 provides significant details as to how this is accomplished at the Station or Cable System Level. The SECC, in providing this information, assumes compliance with its recommendations, however it is not responsible for it. Responsibility for following the recommendations of the SECC in this area rest with the licensee. Compliance verification is handled by the FCC.

It would be advisable that all licensees have a – current- copy of Tabs 5 or 6 and the applicable Tab 10 at their control point that could be used to demonstrate compliance to an FCC representative.

C. Development of Local EAS Structure and Plans

Local Emergency Communication Committees (LECC) are formed in different Local EAS Areas within Washington and surrounding states. LECC formation consists of local Radio, Television and Cable representatives and local public safety officials with the objective of improving public warnings within their Local EAS Area. Each LECC shall develop a Local EAS Plan. That plan shall by kept updated by the LECC and be on a Web based server. Link information for these plans shall be provide to the SECC for inclusion in Tab 12 which contains links to all Local EAS Area Plans in the State

All Local Area Plans should be reviewed by involved local government entities as well as the SECC.

See Tab 12: Applicable Local Area Plans

Common Alerting Protocol ("CAP") is the primary method to be used by all entities authorized to originate EAS alerts in Washington State by the SECC.

Legacy analog EAS systems shall be the secondary means of originating EAS alerts from the entry points for all authorized agencies within a local area. Entry points consist of an EAS encoder and a communication link capable of distributing EAS information to local area stations and cable systems.

D. Origins of EAS Information

1. National Level Message Distribution System

a. Analog:

The President of the United States or other federal authorities may utilize the facilities of the EAS in a national emergency. A national EAS alert comes in the form of an EMERGENCY ACTION NOTIFICATION (EAN) from the White House distributed via one of the following methods:

1) The Primary Entry Point (PEP) network of Stations: In Washington State the PEP Station is KIRO-AM-710 in Seattle
2) Certain designated radio affiliates of NPR
3) Certain designated affiliates of the Premiere Satellite System
4) Other affiliates designated by FEMA

NOTE: The State of Washington Emergency Management Division receives all EANs from KIRO-AM 710 and immediately retransmits the EAN via the State Relay Network (a system utilizing the facilities of the Washington State Patrol throughout the state via mountain top transmitters on 155.475 Mhz).

b. Digital (CAP): The CAP distribution system is FEMA/IPAWS.

See Tab 14: Analog National-Level System

See Tab 16: CAP Distribution System

2. State Level Message Distribution

a. Analog Distribution System: The State of Washington Emergency Management Division will transmit all EAS Alerts on a system utilizing the facilities of the Washington State Patrol throughout the state via mountain top transmitters on 155.475 Mhz (State Relay Network).

b. CAP: CAP is the primary means of distributing EAS Alerts. The State of Washington Emergency Management Division utilizes the facilities of MyState USA and FEMA – IPAWS.

c. The State of Washington Emergency Management Division will utilize both the Analog and CAP distribution systems. The distribution via CAP will precede distribution via the analog State Relay Network.

See Tab 4: Analog State Relay Network Map

See Tab 16: CAP Distribution System

3. National Weather Service Distribution

NOAA/NWS operate NOAA Weather Radio stations throughout the state. These facilities transmit weather and other emergency information to broadcast stations and cable systems as well as to the general public.

Specified Weather Forecast Offices (WFO's) within the State are configured to automatically relay onto NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) transmitters EAS messages from National, State and Local area sources. These are described in Tab 15

See Tab 15: NOAA/NWS Information and Maps

4. Local EAS Distribution System (Local Operational Area Networks)

NOTE - Analog message distribution methods are secondary to Digital/CAP systems. It is imperative that these systems all be routinely maintained and tested to insure their continued viability.

County, City and Operational Area message distribution is handled by 'Local Relay Networks' or LRN's. These, generally, consist of radio or other communications systems that provide the means for sources of local area EAS information to reach broadcasters and cable systems. In some cases a given LRN may serve the needs of multiple counties and/or cities within a given Operational Area or, as cases dictate, adjacent Operational Areas.

Analog messages are encoded using legacy analog EAS equipment and are received on broadcast and cable EAS Decocders as described in Tab 10, Monitoring Assignments**.**

5. Local Digital (CAP) EAS Distribution

NOTE –Digital CAP Message distribution methods are the primary means of distribution.

County, City and Operational area messages are distributed via the facilities of AlertSense, Inc. as described in agreements between MyState and those governmental entities using the facilities thereof.

A digital message utilizes the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) for the encoding and distribution of Textual as well as Audio information or other means of data transfer as required by the event. Digital messages are decoded by all broadcast and cable system that are connected to the MyState system.

6. Local EAS Operational Area Process Specifics

Each operational area may deploy different and unique solutions for message distribution. Details for Local Operational Areas are contained within the EAS Plan for those areas.

See Tab 12: Applicable Local Area Plans

V. Authentication

Specific authorization procedures for originating state l level EAS alerts are developed by Washington State EMD, and local level EAS alerts by the appropriate local government entity.

VI. Required Monthly Test (RMT)

A. Required Monthly Test (RMT). It is the goal of the Washington EAS system to provide an opportunity for a maximum number of State, Local and NWS entry points to fully test their systems. The RMT fulfills this goal by rotating test origination responsibilities throughout the year.

B. Transmission. RMTs are to be initiated by the State of Washington EMD, NWS, and Local Areas in accordance with the Required Monthly Test Schedule. Broadcasters and cable operators are to wait for this test and then react as described in (3) below. These tests shall always use the event code "RMT".

1. Development of the RMT Schedule

Due to the intrusive nature of the RMT to broadcast programming and cable operators, the dates and times of these tests will be scheduled well in advance. Various government entities will be responsible for periodically originating these monthly tests. The Washington State SECC will cooperatively develop the RMT schedule.

The intent of this section is to acknowledge the potential financial impact of such tests on the broadcast programming of broadcasters and cable operators alike, and to provide a mechanism whereby such tests can be scheduled with input from such affected industries. It will be incumbent upon television broadcasters and cable operators to individually designate authorized representatives to the SECC.

See Tab 11: Current RMT Schedule and Procedures

2. Reception and Re-transmission

All broadcasters and subject cable operators receiving an RMT must re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving it. For daytime-only stations receiving a night-time RMT, this test may be re-transmitted within 1 hour after signing on, or may choose not to forward it. Transmission of this RMT takes the place of the Required Weekly Test (RWT). Times should be logged for both the receipt and re-transmission of the RMT. Broadcast and cable management should impress upon their staff that re-transmission of this test is required. It is an FCC violation for failure to re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving it.

3. Procedures for RMT Failures

The following procedures were adopted on March 11, 2009 by the SECC for dealing with failures in the initiation or distribution of RMTs.

a. When it's clear that an RMT failed or was sent as a DMO or RWT, the originating agency will not attempt to resend unless the problem is obvious, can be corrected quickly, and the RMT can be resent no later than 10 minutes after the scheduled time. If the RMT was mistakenly sent as an actual Alert, the agency will NOT attempt to send another RMT.
b. Investigation and documentation of a failed RMT is the responsibility of the LECC Chair, unless he or she is unavailable or otherwise unable to carry out those duties. In the latter case, the incident becomes the responsibility of the SECC Chair, who may delegate duties relevant to the event.

c. The person investigating an RMT failure will post a brief notice on the Washington State EAS Remailer as soon as possible after the event and will post an explanation suitable for broadcaster logging once the cause of the problem has been determined. The subject line shall be in ALL CAPS stating "RMT FAILURE (MONTH AND DATE): Example: 'RMT FAILURE MARCH, 22, 2014. He or she will not post speculative information.

The reason for testing is to find and correct problems so that EAS works when there's an emergency. This goal requires that accuracy be a higher priority than speed when evaluating test failures.

C. Time-Duration and County-Location Codes to be Used in Testing.

1. **The TIME DURATION** used in the EAS header code for all RMT's shall be 3 Hours. A 3-hour duration allows time for the RMT to be received and forwarded multiple times before the event expires.

2. COUNTY LOCATION codes used in the EAS header code for EAS tests shall conform to these guidelines:

SRN: All tests shall use the Location Code for the entire state (053000) and others that are appropriate.
LRN: All Tests shall include the Location Code for all counties that are in the LECC Local Operational Area.

See Tab 3: Washington State Local Area Map

Stations and Cable Operators: The RMT shall be re-transmitted unchanged, except for the "L-Code". Thus, RMTs will include all counties present in the original message. For the RWT performed each week by each broadcast station and each cable operator, the county location code used shall be the county for the broadcaster or cable operator's service area. Other counties in the station's/system's service area may be added.

VII. Washington State EAS Scripts and Formats

A. Test Script and Formats

The following test scripts and formats shall be used by all Washington broadcasters, cable operators, and emergency agencies when originating EAS tests.

1. RMT

Originators of the Required Monthly Tests shall use the following script. All other broadcasters and subject cable operators will receive the test in this format and must retransmit it within 60 minutes in the same format.

EAS encoders will perform RWTs and RMTs according to standard EAS protocol once the required information is entered into the device. The exact procedures for programming a test will vary depending upon the manufacturer of the equipment. Consult your operations manual for information specific to your encoder and practice the procedure prior to attempting to perform an actual test.

a. RMT Format and Script: Transmit the following test script:

> "**This is (<u>name of agency</u>) conducting a test of the Emergency Alert System. In the event of an emergency, this system would bring you important information. The following tones will conclude this test."**

The RMT script can be read in nine to ten seconds. All other elements of the RMT (the header codes, attention signal and end of message codes) take from 19 to 21 seconds to complete, depending on the number of location codes contained in the header. The goal of writing this short test script is to fit the entire test into a 30-second time period. Originators should make every attempt to complete this test within 30 seconds. Pre-recording the script at the length needed to achieve this is highly recommended.

b. Optional Test Introduction and Conclusion

In addition to the required elements in the RMT format, broadcasters and cable systems <u>may elect</u> to add an optional introduction to the test and/or an optional test conclusion. When a test is received, the station could run the optional introduction followed by a one-second pause, retransmit the RMT as outlined above, run the test conclusion, and then return to regular programming. The content of the introduction and conclusion is entirely up to the broadcasters and subject cable operators.

An example of an <u>optional</u> test introduction is:

"This station, in cooperation with national, state, and local officials, participates in the Emergency Alert System. The following is an EAS test."

An example of an <u>optional</u> test conclusion is:

"For information regarding the Emergency Alert System, contact this station or your local emergency services organization."

c. Text to Speech

Originators whose equipment has the capability of using text to speech technology to generate the audio portion of an RMT are permitted to do so. See Tab 13 for specific information.

See Tab 13: Text to Speech Procedures

VIII. EAS State and Local Activation Procedures

A. Analog

1. Program EAS encoder with required header information
2. Record audio message (if applicable)
3. Transmit header and audio message using established procedures

B. Digital (CAP)

1. Utilize Web Based software provided for the activation of EAS using CAP
2. Record audio message (if applicable)
3. Ensure all fields are correct before sending

See Tab 12: Applicable Local Area Plans

IX. Guidance for Originators of EAS Alerts

Only those entities specifically authorized by the applicable LECC and/or the Washington SECC shall input emergency messages into either the CAP or Analog EAS systems.

A WORD OF CAUTION: The Emergency Management/Services community has a valuable tool in gaining direct access to all area broadcasters and cable operators via the EAS. However, **if not used prudently, you put yourself in danger of losing this tool. Broadcasters and cable operators are expecting the EAS to be used only for very serious emergencies**. Keep in mind two things. First, some broadcasters and cable operators have their EAS Decoders set on Automatic Mode. There is no one there to screen your message and decide if it should be aired. They are depending on you to send an EAS Alert **only for a very serious emergency**. The first time you trigger the system for a frivolous event, you will **lose** the confidence of your area broadcasters and cable operators. The second thing to remember is that broadcasters and cable operators participate in the local-level EAS on a voluntary basis. No one can force them to carry your EAS Alerts. Maintain a good relationship with your local broadcasters and cable operators, and they will come through for you in a crisis.

A. Guidance for National Weather Service Personnel

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues weather messages via Weather Radio (NWR) using the NOAA-SAME/EAS codes. NWS personnel will follow NWS procedures relating to the transmission of SAME/EAS codes, the NWR 1050 Hz warning alarm, and the reading of weather and flood bulletin scripts.

National Weather Radio is an “all-hazards” radio network. NWS offices may broadcast EAS alert messages which are not related to weather and flood events. NWS personnel will follow the procedures found in this State Plan and in the local area plans when originating those EAS alerts.

See Tab 12: Applicable Local Area Plans

See Tab 15: NOAA/NWS Information and Maps

See Tab 17: Washington State EAS Event Codes

B. Recommendation for Pre-Planning for Industrial Facility Incidents in Local EAS Operational Area Plans

Nuclear plants and certain industrial facilities are the only non-governmental entities that have been given the authority to request the activation of the EAS. The guidelines presented in this State Plan for Emergency Management/Services entities also apply to participating nuclear and industrial facilities.

Each LECC should determine whether there exists an industrial facility (e.g., nuclear plant, cold storage facility, chemical producer, etc.) that presents a hazardous materials threat to a community within the Local EAS Operational Area that could require the activation of EAS. If such a facility exists, the LECC should include appropriate planning and coordination steps for these facilities in its Local EAS Operational Area Plan.

For example, the Columbia Basin Local EAS Operational Area Plan should contain a provision designating the procedure for the activation of EAS when required by an event at the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant. If there is an incident, the nuclear power plant will contact the county emergency management agency and make a protective action recommendation for the public. The county reviews that recommendation and will make a decision on the appropriate protective actions and use the EAS as a means to alert and notify the public. In the event that the county is unable to send out an EAS message, they will contact the Washington State Emergency Management Division, which will activate EAS on its behalf. WSEM has the same pre-recorded messages in ALERTSENSE, INC. that have been developed, coordinated, and implemented by Benton and Franklin Counties EM Agencies.

See Tab 12: Applicable Local Area Plans