

# **Central Puget Sound Area Emergency Alert System Plan**

Serving

Island County  
Jefferson County (Eastern Part)  
King County  
Kitsap County  
Pierce County  
Snohomish County

November 11, 2009

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## INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

The Emergency Alert System is a national alerting system composed of broadcast networks, cable networks, and program suppliers, AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations, low power television (LPTV) stations, cable systems, and other entities and industries operating on an organized basis during emergencies at the national, state, and local levels. It provides government officials a mechanism to issue emergency warnings to the public through local broadcasters when emergency information may help save lives. It requires that at a minimum, all participants use a common EAS protocol to send and receive emergency alerts.

The Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) is responsible for administrating the EAS on the state level. The SECC has divided Washington State into several Local Areas. Each Local Area is administrated by a Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). The LECCs are responsible for designing and writing Local Area Plans, which become part of the Washington State EAS Plan. This is the Local Operational Plan for the Central Puget Sound Area, which includes Island, Jefferson (eastern portion), King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties in Washington State.

This plan was prepared by the Central Puget Sound EAS Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). It provides guidelines to local authorities for the distribution of emergency information and warnings to the public in the Central Puget Sound EAS Local Area. This Local EAS Plan may be activated by authorized officials 24 hours a day in response to time-critical emergencies such as severe weather, floods, civil disorders, earthquakes, hazardous materials accidents, or any other occurrence which poses a danger to life.

### A WORD OF CAUTION

The Emergency Management/Services community has acquired a valuable tool in gaining direct access to all area broadcasters and subject cable operators through the EAS. Some broadcasters and cable operators have their EAS decoders set on Automatic Mode. No one is there to screen your message and decide whether it should be aired. They are depending on you to send an **EAS Alert only for a 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. Maintain a good relationship with them and they will come through for you in a crisis.

**All requests for activation must meet all of the following criteria:**

- Lives are in danger.
- Direction provided via EAS has the potential to save lives.
- Effective warning cannot be accomplished by other means.

## **LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (LECC)**

The Central Puget Sound Local Emergency Communications Committee (CPS LECC) includes representatives from local government, radio and television broadcast stations, cable television systems, and emergency service agencies in Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. It is a subcommittee of the Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) and is responsible for administering this local area plan.

## **AUTHORITY**

This plan is in accordance with Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 (l) and (o), 303 (r), 524 (g), and 606; and 47 C.F.R. part 11, FCC Rules and Regulations, Emergency Alert System (EAS).

## **SCOPE**

This plan provides guidelines for activating the EAS in the Central Puget Sound Area, which includes the counties of Island, Jefferson (east portion), King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish. All guidelines and procedures established by the Washington State EAS Plan will be followed.

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of all participating agencies to activate the EAS in order to alert and warn residents of emergencies that threaten lives. The EAS will be utilized only when time limitations or incident severity prohibit information distribution to the media through normal channels.

Further instructions to and information for the public will be disseminated to the news media by the originating agency or by the affected jurisdictions, using normal channels.

## **SITUATION**

There will be times when it is critical to warn the public and local officials of threatening or occurring emergencies or disasters. There is no single method of warning available in the Central Puget Sound Area, so a combination of warning methods must be utilized. The EAS is one method used in cooperation with local broadcasters and cable providers.

Examples of incidents that may require warning and use of the EAS include: Earthquake, volcano, severe weather, flood, and hazardous materials release. There are other natural and technological incidents that are addressed in local and state Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis documents that may warrant the use of EAS.

## PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

- The event is occurring or will occur within a short period of time, making conventional methods of warning and news media notification inadequate.
- Lives may be in jeopardy unless immediate precautions are taken.
- The EAS infrastructure will be functioning properly.
- Other methods of warning will be used in addition to the EAS, when possible.
- EAS is only a useful method of warning if radio or television sets are turned on or if new technology is implemented.
- Radio, television and cable providers will broadcast EAS messages in a timely manner.

## INTERNET

Activation will be primarily through the Internet, using the Common Alerting Protocol. However, the Local Relay Network will remain as a backup system.

## THE LOCAL RELAY NETWORK

The Central Puget Sound Local Relay Network (LRN) is based on a UHF repeater located at the Entercom tower on West Tiger Mountain, transmitting on 450.0875 MHz and receiving on 458.0875 MHz. Each of the major Central Puget Sound Local Emergency agencies has an EAS Encoder/Decoder configured to transmit via UHF radio to the repeater. An alert message originated by any of these agencies will be relayed through the repeater to the Central Puget Sound Local Area: LP1 & LP2 stations, broadcasters equipped to monitor the repeater, other Central Puget Sound Emergency agencies equipped to monitor the repeater, and any adjacent Local Area Emergency agencies equipped to monitor the repeater (North Puget Sound, Mason/Thurston, Coastal).

## MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LECC GOVT. AGENCY MEMBERS

<b>INPUTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	LRN	NWS	SRN	KIRO	KPLU
<b>FREQUENCY</b>	450.0875	162.55	155.475	710 AM	88.5 FM
<b>LOCATION</b>	West Tiger	Cougar	Gold	Seattle	West Tiger

NOTE: Agencies in Island, East Jefferson, and Snohomish Counties may wish to monitor the NWS transmitter at Miller Peak, 162.425MHz.

## **EVENT CODES**

An Event Code defines the type of alert being issued. Each type of emergency requires a unique event code. The FCC has defined numerous event codes for use in the EAS. A list of valid event codes is included in TAB 3 of this plan. It is possible to add new event codes, but they must be approved by the LECC, the SECC, and finally by the FCC.

## **LOCATION CODES**

A Location Code defines the geographic area affected by the emergency. EAS location codes are based on the Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) codes. In this system, each state has been assigned a two-digit number and each county in each state has been assigned a three-digit number. The combination of state number and county number gives each county in the entire country a unique five-digit identification number (SSCCC).

TAB 4 of this plan identifies county codes for the Central Puget Sound Area.

## **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **General**

The EAS operates through the use of participating radio and television stations and selected cable television companies. Authorized federal, state and local authorities may activate EAS to warn the public of events which potentially threaten lives.

The decision to activate the EAS for weather related incidents will be the responsibility of the National Weather Service. For localized non-weather related incidents, the affected county will be the designated authority for activating the EAS. Within each county, specified jurisdictions may be authorized to activate EAS as identified by local plans.

If an event has regional impact that affects more than one county, the county where the incident originated will coordinate all EAS messages. If the incident begins in one county and then moves to another, either jurisdiction may initiate an EAS message, but the message should be coordinated by both agencies. Should an incident affect more than two counties in the Central Puget Sound Area, requests for EAS activation will be coordinated with Washington State Emergency Management. In cases where multiple jurisdictions are affected, one EAS message should be sent that provides guidance to all populations affected by the incident.

All primary and alternate EAS contact points are all available on a 24 hour basis, with after-hours operation handled by designated communications centers.

Certain equipment is required to initiate EAS messages. An encoder generates messages which may be preset, requiring only the press of a button to activate. A decoder accepts digital bursts and translates it into an audio and/or text message. A computer can be used with the encoder to send customized messages. Voice messages are currently limited to 2 minutes and must contain concise warning instructions. Before the voice message is transmitted, the 8-second two-tone attention signal is initiated.

## **Responsibilities**

Local County Emergency Management Agencies or their designees have primary responsibility for activating the EAS for incidents occurring within their counties. Alternates as identified in local plans may also activate EAS under specified circumstances. The National Weather Service will take the lead to activate EAS for weather related incidents. Washington State Emergency Management will activate EAS for events that affect multiple counties.

It is the responsibility of each authority to:

- Purchase and maintain EAS equipment so that it can be activated 24 hours a day.
- Designate personnel who will send EAS messages.
- Develop and train personnel on operating procedures
- Test EAS equipment and procedures regularly

## **Request for Activation**

When the incident commander or highest ranking official at the scene of an incident determines that an EAS message must be initiated to preserve lives, he or she will contact the authorized individual from that jurisdiction who has authority to request activation of EAS. That person will contact his or her local EAS authorized agency. If the local EAS activation authority or its alternate (if designated in local plans) cannot be contacted, EAS activation may be requested through Washington State Emergency Management.

It is the responsibility of the agency initiating the EAS message to confirm the incident with a reliable source (dispatch center or incident commander). Many broadcast stations will automatically air all EAS messages and have no mechanism to confirm or edit information. It is critical that the agency sending the alert authenticate the information prior to transmission to broadcasters.

## **Procedures**

The EAS uses a specific protocol described in detail in FCC Rules and Regulations and in the State EAS Plan. EAS encode/decode devices allow operators to input information in plain English, then automatically convert that information into digital data and output it as an audio signal, like that of a dial-up computer modem. The encoder formats the information to match the EAS protocol. NOTE: The protocol and its elements are subject to change as CAP evolves.

EAS activations (tests or alerts) will consist of up to four elements:

- A header code
- An attention signal
- An aural message
- An end of message code

All EAS activations will include a header code data burst. The header code will be sent three times, with a one-second pause after each transmission, to ensure proper reception by EAS decoders. The header code contains the basic EAS message in digital form.

Following the header code, a two-tone attention signal may be used to alert listeners and viewers that EAS activation has occurred and that a voice message will follow. The attention signal should be used if, and only if, a voice message will be included as part of the alert.

A voice message will follow the attention signal. Use of the two-tone attention signal and a voice message will be determined by the originator of the alert. The attention signal and voice message are not required, but if one is used, the other must accompany it.

It is recognized that emergency situations which require the use of EAS are time-critical and that the public must be warned immediately. However, the EAS message must be clear and provide specific direction. Messages must include the following information when applicable:

- The name of the agency delivering the message
- What will happen
- When it will happen
- Where it will happen
- Geographic area affected (if multiple jurisdictions affected, include all)
- Emergency protection measures for the public
- If evacuation is required, identify the hazard area and specify desirable transportation routes or direction of travel for evacuees
- Reassurance to citizens that officials are addressing the incident
- A statement encouraging people to avoid using telephone systems for the first few hours except for life-threatening emergencies
- Advise the public to listen to their local news radio station for more emergency information.

All EAS activations will conclude with an end-of-message code data burst. The end-of-message code will be sent three times, with a one-second pause after each transmission, to ensure proper reception by EAS decoders.

Personnel at the issuing agency will identify a point of contact currently available for questions from the news media. Personnel will also be available to handle inquiries from the public or other agencies. It may be appropriate to establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) for news media inquiries and a citizen hotline to address inquiries from the public.

### **Notification of Affected Agencies**

Notification of affected jurisdictions and government officials will normally occur simultaneously with transmission of the EAS message whenever possible. There will be times when warning the public is time-critical and the EAS message will be sent before other notifications are made. In addition to affected jurisdictions, notification includes Washington State Emergency Management. A request will be made for Washington State Emergency Management to notify other counties of the activation of EAS. The method of notification may include, but is not limited to, telephones, radios, computers, ACCESS, and NAWAS.



The activation of EAS for any purpose will generate calls from the public, government officials and the news media. Whenever possible, affected jurisdictions should be contacted at the same time the EAS message is being generated.

## TRAINING

Training of all operators is critical to the success of the EAS. Each agency must establish procedures and a training plan that includes detailed instruction, hands-on use of the ENDEC and two way radio, and continuing spot-testing of operators.

Training should also include complete familiarity with event codes and their application to various emergencies and the FEMA guidelines for preparing voice messages. This training is also useful in understanding alerts originated by other agencies and relayed via the repeater(s).

## TESTING

Tests of EAS will be run according to FCC rules, with local agencies originating tests in accordance with the State EAS Plan. Required Weekly Tests (RWTs) will be initiated by broadcasters and the National Weather Service. The Required Monthly Test (RMT) is a coordinated test that contains all the elements of an actual EAS alert. It originates from different locations each month, based on guidelines established by the SECC and LECC, and runs on dates and at times as indicated in the state plan and TAB 5 of this plan.

Standards should be applied when conducting the RMT. Use the following settings on the encoder:

<b>Event code:</b>	RMT
<b>Location codes:</b>	Include Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, & Snohomish counties
<b>Duration:</b>	3 hours

The voice message portion of the test must be concise. The following script takes approximately 12 seconds and is a good standard to follow:

**“This is the (*name of agency*) with a test of the Emergency Alert System. In the event of an emergency, this system will bring you important information. The following tones will conclude this test.”**

**NOTE:** A DMO (practice test) may be sent at any time an RMT or actual Alert is not being transmitted or is about to be transmitted. Use of DMOs is encouraged as a training tool for personnel at originating agencies.

## LECC MEETINGS

The LECC will meet a minimum of once a year. As issues arise, meetings may be called more often by the LECC Chair, in-person or by electronic means.

## **CHANGES TO THE PLAN**

Changes to this plan may be suggested at any time and will be considered at regular meetings of the LECC unless circumstances require a special meeting at an earlier date, or unless consensus can be achieved through electronic means (e.g., e-mail). All proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the LECC chair. Following approval by the LECC, all changes must be submitted to the SECC for final approval.

## **REFERENCES**

Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 (i) & (o), 303 ®, 524 (g) & 606; and 47 C.F.R. Part 11, FCC Rules & Regulations, Emergency Alert System.  
Washington State EAS Plan

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES**

<hr/> <b>Island County (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Jefferson County (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>King County (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Kitsap County (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Pierce County (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Snohomish County (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>City of Seattle (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>City of Bellevue (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (print)</b>	<hr/> <b>Signature</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>

**Central Puget Sound Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 1**

**CHECKLIST FOR INITIATING EAS MESSAGE**

**NOTE: CAP may allow additional message elements.**

- O Verify the emergency and ensure that it meets all of the following criteria:
  - **Lives are in danger.**
  - **Direction provided via EAS has the potential to save lives.**
  - **Effective warning cannot be accomplished by other means.**
- O Identify corresponding Event Code
- O Determine whether or not a voice message is needed
- O Following instructions specific for your location and equipment, program the EAS encoder with Source, Event Code, Location, Duration, etc.
- O Where applicable, include the following information in the voice message:
  - The name of the agency delivering the message
  - What will happen
  - When it will happen
  - Where it will happen
  - Geographic area affected (if multiple jurisdictions are affected, include all)
  - Emergency protection measures for the public
  - If evacuation is required, identify the hazard area and specify desirable transportation routes or direction of travel for evacuees
  - Reassurance that officials are addressing the incident
  - A statement encouraging people to avoid using telephone systems for the first few hours except for life threatening emergencies
  - Advise the public to listen to their local news radio station for more emergency information.
- O Verify that the Internet infrastructure is working or that the Local Relay Network radio channel is not in use and no corresponding EAS messages have been received from another agency.
- O Transmit the message.
- O Verify that the message was transmitted.
- O Keep a record of all message transmissions

**Central Puget Sound Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 2**

**AGENCIES AUTHORIZED TO ACTIVATE EAS (ENTRY POINTS)**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Primary Originator</b>	<b>Secondary Originator</b>	<b>Tertiary Originator</b>
Island County	Island Co. DEM*	WSEM*	
Jefferson County	Jefferson Co. DEM*	WSEM*	
King County	King Co. Sheriff's Office Comm. Center*	King Co. OEM*	WSEM*
City of Bellevue	King Co. Sheriff's Office Comm. Center*	Eastside Comm. Center (NORCOM)*	WSEM*
City of Seattle	King Co. Sheriff's Office Comm Center*	WSEM*	
Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA)	ESCA*	King Co. Sheriff's Office Comm. Center*	WSEM*
Kitsap County	Kitsap Co. DEM*	WSEM*	
Pierce County	Pierce Co. DEM*	WSEM*	
Snohomish County	SNOPAC 911*	Snohomish Co. DEM*	WSEM*
Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA)	SNOCOM 911*	ESCA*	WSEM*
National Weather Service	NWS*	WSEM*	
Washington State Emergency Management Division (WSEM)	Duty Officer*		

\*Agency has an EAS Encoder/Decoder (ENDEC) and/or EAS access to MyStateUsa.com

**Central Puget Sound Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 3**

**EVENT CODES**

**WASHINGTON STATE WEATHER EAS EVENT CODES**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Originator</b>
AVA	Avalanche Watch	NWS Only
AVW	Avalanche Warning	NWS Only
BZW	Blizzard Warning	NWS Only
CFA	Coastal Flood Watch	NWS Only
CFW	Coastal Flood Warning	NWS Only
DSW	Dust Storm Warning	NWS Only
EQW	Earthquake Warning	NWS Only
FFA	Flash Flood Watch	NWS Only
FFS	Flash Flood Statement	NWS Only
FFW	Flash Flood Warning	NWS Only
FLA	Flood Watch	NWS Only
FLS	Flood Statement	NWS Only
FLW	Flood Warning	NWS Only
HWA	High Wind Watch	NWS Only
HWW	High Wind Warning	NWS Only
SMW	Special Marine Warning	NWS Only
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch	NWS Only
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning	NWS Only
SVS	Severe Weather Statement	NWS Only
TOA	Tornado Watch	NWS Only
TOR	Tornado Warning	NWS Only
TRA	Tropical Storm Watch	NWS Only
TRW	Tropical Storm Warning	NWS Only
TSA	Tsunami Watch	NWS Only
TSW	Tsunami Warning	NWS Only
VOW	Volcano Warning	Includes lahar warning. NWS and a few others – see table on next page.
WSA	Winter Storm Watch	NWS Only
WSW	Winter Storm Warning	NWS Only

**Central Puget Sound Operational Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 3 (cont.)**

**EVENT CODES**

**WASHINGTON STATE NON-WEATHER EAS EVENT CODES**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Notes</b>
ADR	Administrative Message	
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency (AMBER Alert)	Originated and cancelled via WSP only.
CDW	Civil Danger Warning	
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	
EVI	Evacuation Immediate	
FRW	Fire Warning	
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning	
LAE	Local Area Emergency	
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning	
NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning	Not used in CPS Area.
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning	
SPW	Shelter in Place Warning	
TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency	Can also be used for overloads. See TAB 8.
VOW	Volcano Warning	Includes Lahar Warning. NWS, WSEM, King Co. OEM, & Pierce Co. DEM Only

## **Message Description Guidance**

This guidance was provided by the State Emergency Communication Committee (SECC) and Local Emergency Communication Committees (LECCs). Local authorized EAS message originators are encouraged to follow these guidelines to provide statewide and nationally consistent use of these codes.

A warning or watch is normally issued only once to provide initial notification (alert) of the event. A new warning or watch should be issued if the hazard or recommended public protective action(s) has expanded into another county or geographic zone, or if the valid time has been extended. All other updates or cancellations of the event should be sent as a non-emergency Administrative Message (ADR) or by other means (e.g., telephone, fax, e-mail, or media briefings) to local news media.

## **Non-Weather Related Emergency Messages**

This section provides the recommended definitions of non-weather related events. Most of these event codes are self-explanatory, but are explained to ensure consistency of use by all EAS message originators.

### **Administrative Message (ADR)**

A non-emergency message that provides updated information about an event in progress, an event that has expired or concluded early, pre-event preparation or mitigation activities, post-event recovery operations, or other administrative matters pertaining to the Emergency Alert System. A good example of this code's use is to cancel an Alert (except for a CAE Alert – see note in item below).

### **Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)**

An emergency message, based on statewide established criteria, about a missing child believed to be abducted. A local or state law enforcement agency investigating the abduction will describe the missing child, provide a description of the suspect or vehicle, and ask the public to notify the requesting agency if they have any information on the whereabouts of the child or suspect. NOTE: The CAE (AMBER Alert Code) is generated and cancelled in Washington State only through WSP, in accordance with the State AMBER Alert Plan.

### **Civil Danger Warning (CDW)**

A warning of an event that presents a danger to a significant civilian population. The CDW, which usually warns of a specific hazard and gives specific protective action, has a higher priority than the Local Area Emergency (LAE). Examples include contaminated water supply and imminent or in-progress military or terrorist attack. Public protective actions could include evacuation, shelter in place, or other actions (such as boiling contaminated water or seeking medical treatment). If cancellation of a CDW is needed, use the ADR event code.

### **Civil Emergency Message (CEM)**

An emergency message regarding an in-progress or imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE), but the hazard is less specific than the Civil Danger Warning (CDW). For example, the CEM could be used to describe a change in the Homeland Security alert System level in response to a terrorist threat. If cancellation of a CEM is needed, use the ADR event code.

### **Evacuation Immediate (EVI)**

A warning where immediate evacuation is recommended or ordered according to state law or local ordinance. As an example, authorized officials may recommend the evacuation of affected areas and where to move due to an approaching tsunami. In the event a flammable or explosive gas release, authorized officials may recommend evacuation of designated areas where casualties or property damage from a vapor cloud explosion or fire may occur.



### **Fire Warning (FRW)**

A warning of a spreading wildfire or structural fire that threatens a populated area. Evacuation of areas in the fire's path may be recommended by authorized officials according to state law or local ordinance.

### **Hazardous Materials Warning (HMW)**

A warning of the release of a non-radioactive hazardous material (such as a flammable gas, toxic chemical, or biological agent) that may recommend evacuation (for an explosion, fire or oil spill hazard) or shelter in place (for a toxic fume hazard). If cancellation of a HMW is needed, use the ADR event code.

### **Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)**

A warning of a bomb explosion, riot, or other criminal event (e.g. a jailbreak). An authorized law enforcement agency may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities, evacuate or deny access to affected areas, and arrest violators or suspicious persons. If cancellation of a LEW is needed, use the ADR event code.

### **Local Area Emergency (LAE)**

An emergency message that defines an event that by itself does not pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property. However, the event could escalate, contribute to other more serious events, or disrupt critical public safety services. Instructions, other than public protective actions, may be provided by authorized officials. Examples include: a disruption in water, electric or natural gas service, road closures due to excessive snowfall, or a potential terrorist threat where the public is asked to remain alert. If cancellation of a LAE is needed, use the ADR event code.

### **Radiological Hazard Warning (RHW)**

A warning of the loss, discovery, or release of a radiological hazard. Examples include: the theft of a radioactive isotope used for medical, seismic, or other purposes; the discovery of radioactive materials; a transportation (aircraft, truck or rail, etc.) accident which may involve nuclear weapons, nuclear fuel, or radioactive wastes. Authorized officials may recommend protective actions to be taken if a radioactive hazard is discovered. If cancellation of a RHW is needed, use the ADR event code.

### **Shelter in Place Warning (SPW)**

A warning of an event where the public is recommended to shelter in place (go inside, close doors and windows, turn off air conditioning or heating systems, apply plastic and duct tape to doors, windows and vent openings) and turn on a radio, NOAA Weather Radio or TV for more information). An example is the release of hazardous materials where toxic fumes or radioactivity may affect designated areas. If cancellation of a SPW is needed, use the ADR event code.

### **911 Telephone Outage Emergency (TOE)**

An emergency message that defines a 911 telephone network outage or overload by geographic area or telephone exchange. Authorized officials may provide alternative phone numbers in which to reach 911 or dispatch personnel. If cancellation of a TOE is needed, use the ADR event code. NOTE: The TOE Alert Code may also be used to inform the public of a 911 center overload due to any reason and to ask that citizens only report life-threatening emergencies (see sample message in TAB 7).

### **Volcano Warning (VOW)**

A warning of current or imminent volcanic activity, including lahars. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance (see tables on pages 14 and 15).

**Central Puget Sound Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 4**

**LOCATION CODES FOR CENTRAL PUGET SOUND AREA**

Island County	053029
Jefferson County	053031
King County	053033
Kitsap County	053035
Pierce County	053053
Snohomish County	053061

**Central Puget Sound Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 5**

**(INSERT REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST SCHEDULE  
FOR CENTRAL PUGET SOUND AREA HERE)**

**Central Puget Sound Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 6**

**CENTRAL PUGET SOUND OPERATIONAL AREA BROADCASTER MONITORING  
ASSIGNMENTS**

**(INSERT REGIONAL SUBSET OF SECC MONITORING ASSIGNMENTS HERE)**

**Central Puget Sound Area  
Emergency Alert System Local Area Plan  
TAB 7**

Sample Message for 911 Overloads

Code TOE

Due to \_\_\_\_\_, 9-1-1 in (area affected) is being overloaded with non-emergency calls. **DO NOT** call 9-1-1 unless you have a life-threatening emergency and need immediate help from police, fire, or medics. Unnecessary 9-1-1 calls are blocking people with real emergencies from reaching 9-1-1.