

This tab addresses acronyms and terms used in the Washington Public Alert and Warning System (WA-PAWS) plan and other related documents. If there are additional acronyms and terms to add or adjustments to be made, contact the Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC).

Acronyms:

AFSK: Audio Frequency Shift Keying

AHAB: All-Hazard Alert Broadcast (outdoor siren system)

AM: Amplitude Modulation

AP: Associated Press

ARES: Amateur Radio Emergency Service- provides communications aid before, during, and after an emergency. See **RACES**.

ASCII: American Standard Code for Information Interchange

BPS: Bits per Second

CATV: Cable Television

CIV: Civil Authority

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

COL: City of License

EAN: Emergency Action Notification

EAS: Emergency Alert System

EAS-WA: WA EAS community new & information email list serve/ remailer

EBS: Emergency Broadcast System (obsolete)

ENS: Emergency Notification System

EOC: Emergency Operations Center

EOM: End of Message

EPIS: Emergency Public Information System

ETRS: EAS Electronic Test Reporting System

FCC: Federal Communications Commission

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIPS: Federal Information Processing Standards

FM: Frequency Modulation

LP: Local Primary

LPTV: Low Power Television

LRN: Local Relay Network

MDS: Multi point Distribution System

NAC: National Advisory Committee, also, News Advisory Channel. See “Squawk”

NAWAS: National Warning System

NIC: National Information Center

NN: Non-participating National

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NP: National Primary

NPT: National Periodic Test

NWPB: Northwest Public Broadcasting

NWR: NOAA Weather Radio

NWS: National Weather Service.

LECC: Local Area Emergency Communications Committee

PEP: Primary Entry Point

PN: Participating National

PSAP: Public-Safety Answering Point, also known as a Public-Safety Access Point or 911 center

RACES: Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service-Provides communication assistance to Civil authorities during an emergency and the immediate aftermath. See **ARES**

SAME: Specific Area Message Encoding

SECC: State Emergency Communications Committee

SECC-WA: WA SECC business email list serve/ remailer

SP: State Primary

SR: State Relay

UTC: Coordinated Universal Time

VHF: Very High Frequency (30-300 MHz)

WEA: Wireless Emergency Alerts

WECCWG: Washington Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group

WEMD: Washington Emergency Management Division

WHCA: White House Communications Agency

WRSAME: Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoding

WSAB: Washington State Association of Broadcasters

WXR: Weather Radio (i.e. - NOAA Weather Radio from NWS)

Glossary:

Term	Definition
Activate	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).
Activation	The initiation of the EAS by transmission of EAS header codes.
Activator	The entity which initiates an EAS test or alert, i.e. State, county or Local Emergency Management, NOAA, Any Authorized COG.
AlertSense	A digital alert delivery system, formerly known as MyStateUSA, used by qualified agencies to issue emergency alerts through FEMA's alerting channels, including WEA and EAS.
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 Feed	A specific type of syndication feed, similar to RSS, Rich Site Summary and Really Simple Syndication, feeds. IPAWS-OPEN uses an Atom feed.
Attention Signal	Eight to twenty-five second of two tones signal, 853 and 960 Hz, used as an audio alert in an actual EAS activation or RMT. Broadcasting these tones or simulation thereof for any other use is strictly forbidden by FCC Part 11 rules.
Audio Frequency Shift Keying (AFSK)	A digital modulation technique that uses two shifting audio frequencies to transmit binary data.
Authority	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 messages for pre-selected event codes.
Capability	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 WA-PAWS plan.
City of License	The city that is 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	Tests that do not reach the public, but do allow for reception by EAS participants for logging and evaluation.
Collaborative Operating Group	A Federal, State, or local alerting authority that has authorization to use IPAWS is designated as a Collaborative Operating Group or "COG"

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)	CAP is a 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.
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)	The world-wide common time standard used as the time stamp for EAS headers. (French: Temps Universel Coordonné, TUC)
DASDEC	An EAS Encoder/Decoder system manufactured by Digital Alert Systems (a division of Monroe Electronics, Inc.).
Daylight Savings Time (DST)	Clock time adjusted to achieve longer evening daylight hours by setting clocks one hour ahead of Standard Time.
DEM	Division/Department of Emergency Management.
DES	Division/Department of Emergency Services.
Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS)	A service intended to deliver satellite signals directly to consumers using individual receive stations.
EAN Network	The interconnection of the Federal government with national networks and program suppliers used to disseminate the EAN message.
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	The regulated entities that receive and broadcast alerts. These entities are defined in section 11.1(a) of the Commission's rules and include broadcasters, wired and wireless cable television systems, direct broadcast satellite (DBS), satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS), digital cable and digital audio broadcasting (DAB), and wireline video systems.
EAS Test	EAS message for testing
EAS-1	An EAS Encoder/Decoder system manufactured by the Gorman-Redlich Manufacturing Co.
EAS-WA Remailer	The WA EAS community new & information email list serve/ remailer providing WA-PAWS Plan updates, test schedules, meeting schedules and agendas, and other important operational communication.
Emergency Action Notification (EAN)	A National-level EAS alert.
Emergency Action Termination (EAT)	The message for National EAS alert termination.

Emergency Alert System (EAS)	<p>The EAS comprises broadcast and cable networks, program suppliers, AM, FM, and TV broadcaster stations, LPTV stations, cable systems, and other entities and industries operating on an organized basis during emergencies at the National, Local, and State levels. It requires that all participants use a common EAS protocol, as defined in the FCC rules Part 1, to send and receive emergency alerts. EAS replaced the EBS (Emergency Broadcast System) in 1997.</p> <p>EAS is also a three-character originator code (denoting a Broadcast Station or Cable System) within an EAS message header.</p>
Emergency Broadcast System (EBS)	An outdated system for providing emergency information to the public. It was replaced by EAS in January, 1997.
Emergency Operations Center (EOC)	The facility where the given agency (State, county, city, etc.) coordinates emergency response.
End of Message (EOM) Code	ASCII data string which signifies the end of an EAS message and activation.
ENDEC	An EAS Encoder/Decoder system manufactured by Sage Alerting Systems, Inc.
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.
FCC Mapbook	An FCC document which organizes all broadcast stations and cable systems according to their State plan for use by the FCC.
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	US Government agency which regulates Radio, TV and Cable systems. One of three federal entities that participate in EAS.(Along with FEMA and NOAA)
Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)	One of three federal entities that participate in EAS (Along with FCC and NOAA)
Federal Information Processing System (FIPS)	A five-character ASCII code in the EAS headers that represent those counties affected by an EAS activation, as defined by the Federal Information Processing System. Every county has its own five-digit number.
Gatekeeper	The entity, as identified in the WA-PAWS plan, having ultimate authority to request activation (e.g. State/local emergency management, State police and local public safety) and the responsibility to ensure that the requested activations meet the standards of acceptability so as to not saturate the system with unwarranted activations.
Header Code	A single string of ASCII data that includes the originator, event, location, time period, and other basic information concerning an EAS test or alert; three header codes precede the voice warning message.
Idaho State Alert & Warning System (ISAWS)	A system for delivering alert and warning messages to Idaho citizens. At the time of this writing, AlertSense is under contract with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management to provide this service.
Initiate	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 WA-PAWS plans.

Initiator	Person or party requesting the activation of an EAS notification, such as the Incident Commander, Police, Fire, Emergency Manager or NOAA.
Integrated Public Alert & Warning System Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN)	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.
Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)	A modernization and integration of the nation's alert and warning infrastructure. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface.
Intermediary Device	A stand-alone device that carries out the functions 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.
Julian Date 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 or cable system.
KNKX	Seattle/Tacoma-based broadcast station that includes a number of additional connected stations and translators that make up an NP Distribution Facility.
KBPX	Spokane-based broadcast station that includes a number of additional connected stations and translators that make up an NP Distribution Facility.
L-Code	The identification in the EAS header of an EAS Participant transmitting or retransmitting an EAS message. (Station call sign, NWS, WAEOC, etc.)
Lahar	A violent type of mud or debris flow, caused by a volcanic eruption
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.
Local Emergency Communication Committee (LECC)	Responsible for managing alert and warning notifications for a specific community and the overall Emergency Alert System for a defined geographic area. Also referred to as a Local Area Emergency Communications Committee (LAECC).
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 Primary (LP)	A source within a local area that is the primary source of analog EAS messages for other broadcasters in that local area.
Local Relay Network (LRN)	An analog wireless system used to distribute Public Warning Messages from government entities within an Operational Area to EAS participants. Refer to your local EAS plan as defined by your LECC.

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.
Low Power FM (LPFM)	A FM radio service created by the FCC in January 2000. LPFM stations are authorized for noncommercial educational broadcasting only and operate with an effective radiated power of 100 watts or less. LPFM stations are only available to non-commercial educational entities and public safety and transportation organizations. They are not available to individuals or for commercial operations.
Low Power Television (LPTV)	A television signal translator station which may also originate programming.
Mark Frequency	The audio frequency of AFSK modulation that corresponds to a digital bit of one (1). The mark frequency of EAS codes is 6250/3 Hz, or approximately 2083.33 Hz.
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.
Multilingual	Defined as: of, having, or expressed in several languages. The delivery of EAS alerts to as wide an audience as technically feasible, including to those who communicate in a language other than English.
Multi-point Distribution System (MDS) Station	A facility which delivers a signal to several specific locations.
National Alert	EAS alert of National origin.
National Control Point Procedures	Those National EAS procedures used only by national networks and program suppliers.
National Information Center (NIC)	A source of official Federal government information.
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	One of three Federal entities that participate in EAS.(Along with FEMA and FCC)
National Periodic Test (NPT)	A nation-wide test of the EAN system, conducted annually by FEMA
National Primary (NP)	Stations that are the primary entry point for Presidential messages and National alerts delivered by FEMA. These stations are responsible for broadcasting these messages to the public and to State Primary stations within their broadcast range.
Northwest Public Broadcasting (NWPB)	A network of Radio and TV stations, based in Pullman, WA. NWPB radio acts as an NP Distribution Facility.
National Weather Service (NWS)	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.
NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)	A service of the National Weather Service that provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information and any weather and non-weather-related emergency warnings to a local area. NWR uses seven VHF radio frequencies and is the means to activate EAS for imminent weather-related emergency messages. Refer to Tab 15 for a listing of frequencies, locations, and their associated Operational Areas.

Operator Interruption	The transmission of the EAS activation which has been manually initiated by broadcast station or cable system personnel.
Originator	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.
Participating National (PN)	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 PNs.
Premier Network	Premier Satellite operates a "FEMA channel" that is used to distribute National Alerts and NPTs to their affiliates.
Pre-selected Code	An EAS event which the operator of EAS equipment has chosen to be automatically encoded and retransmitted upon reception.
Primary Entry Point (PEP)	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 FEMA and Presidential messages, including EAN and the nation-wide EAS test (NPT).
Program Priorities	The precedence of the information that must be transmitted during an EAS activation, namely National, local and State activations, in that order.
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.
Public-Safety Answering Point (PSAP)	A call center responsible for answering calls to an emergency telephone number for police, firefighting, and ambulance services. It is also known as a Public-Safety Access Point or 911 center.
Radio Broadcast Data System (RBDS)	A defined protocol for data that is transmitted on the 57 kHz subcarrier of FM radio broadcast stations utilized mainly by consumer devices equipped to receive it.
Relay Network	Describes the links and paths from warning origination points to EAS Participants for legacy EAS and CAP messages.
Required Monthly Test (RMT)	A coordinated monthly test of EAS operations, within an Operational Area, involving the full receiving and transmission of EAS codes, attention signal, EAS test programming, and EAS end-of-message codes, as mandated by the FCC. See CFR 11.61(a) (1).
Required Weekly Test (RWT)	An independent weekly test of EAS equipment only involving the decoding and encoding of EAS header codes and end-of-message codes, as mandated by the FCC. See CFR 11.61(a) (2).
Resource	A descriptive for a supply that is drawn upon for: materials, personnel or information that are managed during an emergency to help bring the event to a fast and successful outcome.
Response	A descriptive for the actions an emergency management asset brings to bear in order to manage an emergency to a quick and successful outcome.
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.

SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee.
SECC-WA Remailer	The WA SECC business email list serve/ remailer which would include more information than the EAS-WA remailer, the WA EAS community forum. See Tab F8
Sources	Monitor inputs to EAS decoders. CAP or analog radio systems.
Sirius/XM	The so-called "Barker" channel distributes National Alerts and NPTs to any Sirius/XM receiver, regardless of subscription status.
Squawk	a.k.a. News Advisory Channel---An audio channel on the PRSS satellite system that distributes National Alerts, weekly EAS tests, and NPTs to NPR-affiliated stations.
Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)	Specific Area Message Encoding is a method of identifying the local area to which an alert message applies.
Spokane Public Radio (SPR)	A network of Radio stations, based in Spokane, WA. SPR acts as an NP Distribution Facility.
State EAS Plan (WA-PAWS)	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. Now known as the WA-PAWS Plan
State Primary (SP)	A primary source of EAS state programming which can originate with a Governor or designated representative, such as a state's emergency operations officer.
State Relay (SR)	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.
State Relay Network (SRN)	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 information across the state. See Tab 4/C4 for a geographical overview.
State/Local Alert	EAS alert of State or local origin.
Subsidiary Communications Services	A subcarrier of television and FM stations providing a second audio programming source.
Termination Script	Specific scripts, specified in the WA-PAWS 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 of the test script is decided upon by the SECC and included in the WA-PAWS plan.
Text To Speech (TTS)	A form of speech synthesis that converts text into spoken voice output.
Time-Duration Code	A four-digit ASCII code in the EAS header that defines how long the EAS activation is valid.
Translator	A radio or television facility which receives a signal on one frequency and retransmits it on another frequency, typically at a low power.
Valid Code	An EAS header which has been matched bit-for-bit with one of two other received headers thereby checked for validity.
Washington Common Alert Protocol (WA-CAP)	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 MyStateUSA.
Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoder (WRSAME)	A device used by the NWS to broadcast data on the NWR system for day-to-day forecasts and weather-related emergency announcements.
Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)	WEA is a public safety system that allows customers who own certain wireless phones and other enabled mobile devices to receive geographically-targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area.
Wireline Video System	The system of a wireline common carrier used to provide video programming service.