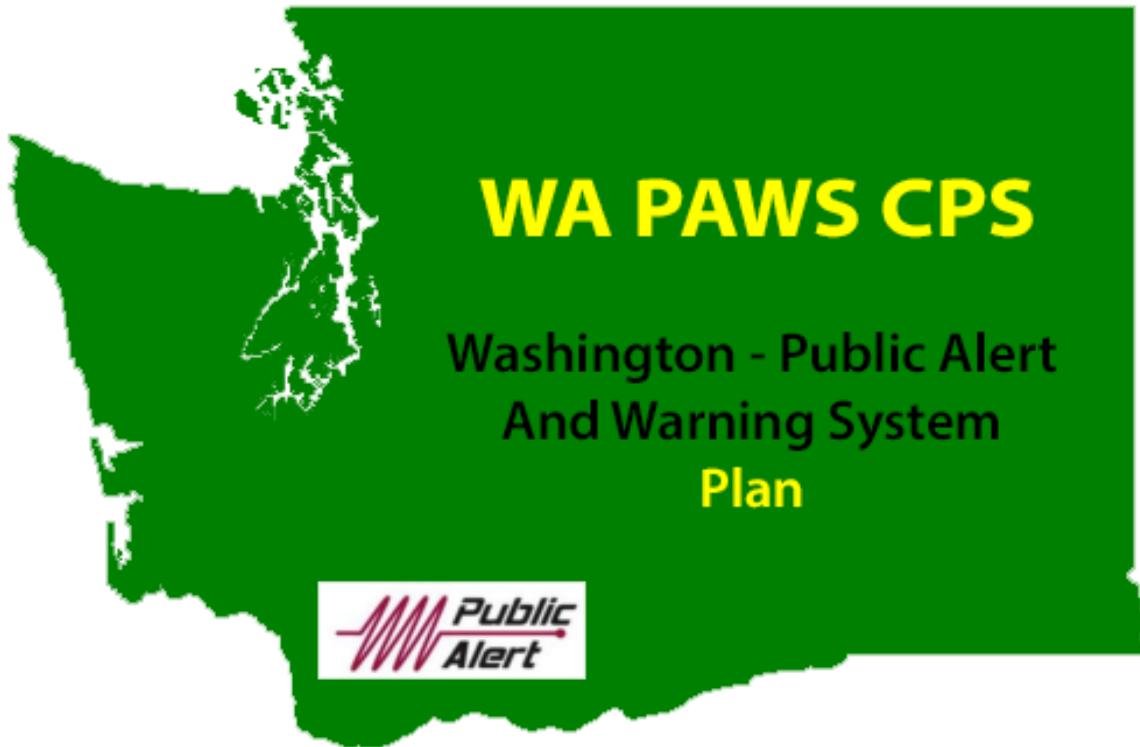


Central Puget Sound Public Alert & Warning Plan

Central Puget Sound Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC)



Central Puget Sound Public Alert and Warning System (PAWS) Plan

1) Introduction

WA PAWS and IPAWS: The Washington Public Alert and Warning System (WA-PAWS) includes components that satisfy FCC and FEMA requirements for a state Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan, plus guidelines for all other public alert and warning processes for emergency message originators and broadcasters for national, state, and local messages. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a FEMA tool for disseminating emergency messaging.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national alerting system composed of Emergency Management Agencies, 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 requires that at a minimum all participants use a common protocol to send and receive emergency alerts.

The Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) is responsible for administering the EAS on the state level. The SECC has divided Washington State into several Local Operational Areas. Each Local Area is administrated by a Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). The Central Puget Sound LECC, whose operational area consists of Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties (CPS Operational Area), is responsible for designing and writing a Local Area Plan which becomes part of the Washington State (WA PAWS) Plan.

A) Purpose

To provide government officials with a mechanism to issue emergency alert and warning information to the public through local broadcast and other means.

B) Scope

This plan covers the dissemination of emergency information and warnings to the public in the Central Puget Sound (CPS) Area. The plan may be activated on a 24-hour-a-day basis in response to local emergencies/disasters using an alerting system. The plan contains policies and procedures for government officials and local broadcasters to transmit emergency information to the public using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Local Relay Network (LRN), and the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) system. This plan will be reviewed by the CPS LECC every 12-18 months and updated as needed. **NOTE: The Local Relay Network (LRN) is a primary backup system to IPAWS in case the IPAWS process is out of service. Authorized Emergency management agencies and PSAPs use an Encoder/Decoder (ENDEC) and a UHF radio transmitter as an alternate to IPAWS, to send alerts and tests through a UHF radio repeater to broadcasters in the Central Puget Sound (CPS) operational area.**

2) Policies

A) Authorization

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

B) Administering The Local PAWS Plan

The LECC (Local Emergency Communications Committee) for Central Puget Sound (CPS) shall be responsible for approving and administering the local plan. Access to IPAWS is determined by the State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD).

C) LECC Representation

The LECC recommends that representation includes direct or indirect representation from each of the following entities:

- Local Emergency Management
- Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)
- Local Radio Stations
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Departments
- Washington State Patrol (WSP)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Tribal Representatives
- Local/regional Ham Radio groups

Confidential contact lists for participants are in the appendices.

D) Administering The State PAWS Plan

The Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) shall be responsible for administering the State (WA PAWS) plan and approving the CPS PAWS Plan and appendices.

E) The Emergency Alert System (EAS)

EAS is an electronic alerting system capable of providing emergency information from national, state, and local sources to the public through radio and television broadcast stations and subject cable systems. IPAWS and EAS protocol allows the encoding of emergency messages using standard FEMA codes for various types of emergencies (**see APPENDIX A**).

EAS also allows messages to be tailored to specific geographic areas so information can be delivered quickly to those areas which are affected by an emergency. Basic information regarding local emergencies is sent to local broadcast stations and cable systems via local alerting systems and forwarded to the public by those facilities.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires broadcasters and subject cable operators to have EAS encode/decode devices at their facilities to receive and forward national EAS messages and required weekly and monthly tests. These same devices may be used, at the broadcaster's or cable operator's discretion, for local emergencies. Local emergency management entities may choose to send EAS information via the Local Relay Network (LRN) to local broadcast and cable facilities for transmission to the public.

All local EAS activity is subject to the authority of the LECC, and the guidelines presented in this local area plan.

EAS is designed to work without the need for personal contact with anyone at broadcast stations or cable facilities. Activating entities issuing emergency messages should assume that no one is at the broadcast or cable facilities and must formulate and transmit complete emergency messages. Broadcasters and cable operators simply forward the local emergency information they receive (if they choose to participate at the local level).

F) Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

The Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) system is another essential part of America's emergency preparedness. The Warning, Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act established WEA to allow customers who own compatible mobile devices to receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area.

Authorized national, state, or local government authorities may send alerts regarding public safety emergencies – such as severe weather or the need to evacuate – using WEA.

Authorized public safety officials send WEA alerts through FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to participating wireless carriers, which then push the alerts to compatible mobile devices in the affected area. These officials access WEA through alert and warning programs (AlertSense, Everbridge, Code Red, etc.), subscription services that provide the capability for emergency staff to initiate alerts quickly and efficiently from a county EM office or remotely from personal devices.

The National Weather Service also originates Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM) through NOAA Weather Radio (NWR).

G) Caution Statement

IPAWS can be a very powerful tool for emergency management organizations, allowing them to notify the public of impending or occurring emergency situations in a quick and precise manner. The SECC realizes that such a powerful tool may present a hardship to broadcast stations and cable systems if it is not used prudently and properly and includes the following warning to activating entities (in the WA State - WA PAWS Plan).

H) Changes To the CPS PAWS Plan

All proposed changes to the CPS PAWS Plan shall be submitted in writing to LECC chair, who shall bring such proposed changes to the LECC for review.

Changes to this basic plan may be suggested at any time and will be considered at a regular meeting of the Central Puget Sound Local Emergency Communications Committee (CPS LECC) unless circumstances require a special meeting at an earlier date. The CPS LECC shall be responsible for evaluating all proposed changes to this basic plan and shall by a majority vote accept or decline proposed changes.

The CPS LECC shall submit a copy of all changes of the basic plan to the SECC for final approval.

A word of Caution: Direct access to all area broadcasters and subject cable operators through EAS is a valuable tool. However, this privilege can be lost if not used prudently. Many broadcasters and cable operators have their EAS decoders set on Automatic Mode and incoming messages are not screened prior to being broadcast. These agencies are depending on you to use this system only in the event of a very serious emergency. Using this system for frivolous events will degrade confidence in the whole system. Participation by the broadcasters and cable operators is voluntary. No one can force them to carry EAS alerts. Please keep in mind the importance of maintaining a good relationship with them so they will be there in a crisis.

I) Activating Public Alert and Warning

Requests to activate alerts should come from the highest available authority for the affected jurisdiction. The event must be such that a potentially life-threatening situation is occurring or is imminent and large segments of the population are at risk. These alerts shall only be activated when the time limitations or severity of the incident prohibit information distribution to the news media by normal channels or other methods available to emergency management.

J) Primary Authority

Counties shall be the primary authorities for approving IPAWS activations to alert and warn residents of local life-threatening emergencies. AMBER Alert requests to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) shall be the responsibility of the local law enforcement agencies (see <https://mil.wa.gov/asset/632e4033a15ca>). All other IPAWS activations shall be the responsibility of the approved local agency issuing the warning.

K) Secondary Authority

Only those agencies and personnel in designated positions shall be authorized to approve IPAWS activations. Agency authorization information shall be submitted to the LECC. (See confidential appendices for listing of authorized agencies). NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, cities and Tribal governments in the CPS area go through counties to request IPAWS activation.

L) Testing Of WA PAWS

All EAS and WEA testing shall be conducted according to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rules, and in accordance with the Washington State (WA PAWS) Plan.

3) Situational Awareness

A) General

There is no single method to alert and warn all CPS area residents of imminent danger. IPAWS is one method or tool to be used, in cooperation with local broadcasters, to accomplish effective public warning.

Examples of incidents that may require warning and use of IPAWS include, but are not limited to:

- Severe weather
- Flood
- Wildfires
- Hazardous materials release
- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Civil Unrest
- Terrorist Attack
- Volcano

Other hazards as identified in the local and state Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA) and Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) may warrant the use of IPAWS.

B) Planning Assumptions

1. Implementation of IPAWS will be in response to an event that is occurring or will occur within a short period of time, making conventional methods of warning and media notification inadequate.
2. Lives may be in jeopardy or major property damaged unless immediate precautions or actions are taken.
3. LRN, EAS encoder/decoder, web-based EAS, and radio repeater systems are functional.
4. Other methods of warning will be used in addition to EAS.
5. EAS will be more effective if the public is properly equipped with radios, television, and self-alerting battery powered backup National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.
6. Radio, television, and cable providers will broadcast EAS messages in a timely manner.
7. EAS is a voluntary system and is not 100% reliable. Limitations include the functionality of the radio system infrastructure, the use of radio and television by the intended recipients of the message, and the timely broadcast of messages by the radio, television, and cable providers.
8. Wireless devices need to be properly activated to receive WEA alerts. It is the responsibility of the individual to confirm with their service provider that their devices are configured properly, and their service includes the receipt of these messages.

4) Concept Of Operations

A) General

The State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) has divided Washington State into several Local Areas. Each Local Area is administered by a Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). The LECCs are responsible for designing and writing a local area plan that is part of the Washington State (WA PAWS) Plan.

EAS operates through coordinated participation by radio and television stations, as well as cable television companies. Authorized federal, state and local authorities, may activate EAS to warn the public of potential life-threatening events.

EAS broadcast is designed to work independent of human intervention. Activating entities issuing emergency messages should assume that no one is at the broadcast or cable facilities. It is critical that the activating entities formulate and transmit complete emergency messages. Broadcast and cable operations will simply forward the local emergency information they receive (if they choose to participate at the local level, which nearly all do).

Wireless companies volunteer to participate in Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), which is the result of a unique public/private partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the FCC, and the United States wireless industry to enhance public safety.

Each county is registered with FEMA to provide IPAWS messaging through WEA. This messaging is implemented using AlertSense, Code Red, Everbridge, and similar systems.

B) Request For Activation

When the incident commander or highest-ranking official at the scene of an incident determines that an alert is needed to help save lives or protect property, that person will contact the county Emergency Management Duty Officer) to request activation of IPAWS.

If Emergency Management is not immediately available, or if the local alerting system is inoperable, the request may be directly sent to another agency (including the WA EMD) for dissemination (See "INDIVIDUAL COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT").

It is the responsibility of the requesting entity to confirm the incident with a reliable source such as the dispatch center or incident commander. Broadcast stations will automatically air all EAS messages and may have no mechanism to confirm or edit information. So it is critical that the entity requesting the alert authenticate the information prior to transmission to broadcasters.

WEA messaging is also sent directly to wireless devices without being validated prior to transmission and equal care must be taken in creating accurate and effective messaging. In other words, make sure the incident is real before transmission.

C) Notification To Affected Agencies

The activation of IPAWS for any purpose will generate calls from the public, government officials, and the news media. To prepare for this: Whenever possible, notification to other affected jurisdictions, government officials, and PIOs will occur simultaneously with transmission of the emergency message. There will be times when warning the public is time-critical and the message will be sent before other notifications are made. In addition to other affected jurisdictions, notification must be made to the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD Duty Officer).

LOCAL AUTHORIZATION

This plan shall be in force and operational when signed by the appropriate county government officials, county emergency management director, the Chair of the CPS LECC, and the Chair of the SECC. Authorization shall continue until a formal request to terminate participation in the plan is submitted to the LECC.

D) LECC Meetings

The Chair of the CPS LECC will determine the need to meet after local WA PAWS activations. During those meetings the LECC will review this local plan and its effectiveness and to make sure all participants are satisfied with their participation. For information on the date, time, and location, contact the LECC Chair. LECC meetings are open to all interested parties and are not restricted to committee members.

5) Responsibilities

A) Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD)

- Coordinate IPAWS activation should an incident affect more than one Operational Area of the Washington (WA PAWS) Plan. In cases where multiple jurisdictions are affected, one message should be sent that provides guidance to all populations affected by the incident.
- Assist the county EM with IPAWS notifications when the Local Relay Network (LRN) is inoperative.
- Provide a technical support liaison as necessary for counties. In the event a Local Area agency is unable to originate a scheduled RMT via IPAWS or the Local Repeater Network (LRN), the affected agency will contact the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) Duty Officer at least 3 business days in advance and specify the necessary language (e.g., English, Spanish, etc.) the exact wording of the message, and FIPS codes needed to originate the RMT on the agency's behalf.

B) National Weather Service (NWS)

- Activate EAS and WEA for weather-related life-threatening events impacting one or more jurisdictions.
- Through use of Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM) and at the request of state and local emergency message originators, including emergency managers, rebroadcast local warning messages over NOAA Weather Radio (NWR).

C) Individual County Emergency Management

- Maintain primary responsibility for initiating the activation request for incidents occurring within the individual county, including requests from cities and Tribal governments.
- Coordinate the maintenance of equipment so that it can be activated 24-hours a day, including the LRN.
- Designate personnel who will send messages.
- Develop and conduct training for communications personnel on operating procedures.
- Arrange formal backup for activation when the individual county is unable to originate an alert or warning via IPAWS or the LRN. This may be another county or WA EMD. It should be part of an Emergency Management Agency's written procedures.
- Ensure proper testing of the PAWS plan and equipment on a regular basis.
- Maintain a position on the LECC and provide oversight of the committee business records.
- Provide feedback to the LECC on concerns, testing process, and actual activations.
- Actively participate in the local testing process.

D) Local Emergency Communications Committee (CPS LECC)

- Approve the local PAWS plan for the CPS operational area.
- Address issues involving PAWS within the CPS area.
- Approve and deny requests for changes to the local PAWS plan.
- Help ensure the Local Relay Network (LRN) is functioning properly and all authorized participants are informed of PAWS protocol.
- Submit changes to the PAWS Plan to the SECC for its approval
- Conduct at least one annual meeting for a program review.

E) 911 Communications (PSAPS)

While PSAPs may not have the equipment in place to disseminate IPAWS messages, they may be the first step in the notification process of that a public alert and warning message is needed. For these alerts to occur in a timely manner, prompt and accurate notification is vital.

- Maintain current and accurate information of county EM points of contact.
- Ensure all dispatch personnel are informed of the CPS PAWS program
- Provide feedback to county EM on EAS concerns

F) IPAWS Authorizing Entities (County emergency management agencies)

- Ensure proper training of the civil authorities responsible for requesting IPAWS alerts on the policies and procedures governing the PAWS.
- Actively participate in the local PAWS testing process and provide feedback to the LECC on concerns.
- Follow established IPAWS protocol when requesting alerts
- Complete PAWS follow-up notification procedures.

G) Broadcasters

- Monitor sources required by the State (WA PAWS) Plan for EAS activations
- Forward the EAS message to the public through the broadcast network.
- Relay the Required Monthly Test (RMT)
- Train staff on EAS.

6) Training And Testing

A) Training

The CPS LECC will establish procedures and suggested training plans that include detailed instructions for use of local alerting systems at applicable agencies.

Training of all Duty Officers and designees authorized to issue IPAWS messages is critical to the success of the system.

Training should include familiarity with FEMA event codes, their application to various emergencies, and the guidelines for preparing voice messages. This training will be useful in understanding alerts originated by other agencies and relayed via the Local Relay Network (LRN).

It is the responsibility of the managers of broadcast stations, cable systems, and activating entities to assure that all relevant personnel in their organizations are properly trained to operate all relevant aspects of IPAWS that apply to their situations. Required Weekly Tests (RWTs) and Practice Demo Warnings (DMOs) may be sent at any time and are recommended for training.

B) Testing

Testing is an important aspect of IPAWS and required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). IPAWS testing will be conducted according to FCC and FEMA rules. Testing will ensure that the activation system is operational, and will help to pinpoint and correct any hardware, software, and/or operational problems. County EMs will conduct all tests in accordance with the WA State PAWS Plan.

Required Monthly Tests/Required Weekly Tests

FCC rules specify that broadcasters and cable systems must run a Required Monthly Test (RMT) once each month (normally on a rotating basis), and that during the weeks when an RMT does not run, a Required Weekly Test (RWT) must run. There are some exceptions to this which are detailed in the FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 11.61 (a) (6). The Required Weekly Test (RWT) is originated at each broadcast/cable facility and is scheduled randomly by that facility. The RMT is a coordinated test that contains all the elements of an actual EAS alert (header codes, two-tone alert, voice message, end-of-message codes). It originates from different locations each month based on guidelines established by the SECC and runs on dates and at times determined by the EAS Test Coordinator under the guidance of the SECC.

Separately, the FEMA IPAWS Lab – also known as the IPAWS Technical Support Services Facility (TSSF) -- provides 24-hour a day technical support with IPAWS activations, alert troubleshooting, IPAWS tests, Monthly Proficiency Demonstrations (MPDs), and other IPAWS-related requests. The TSSF also hosts a closed, end-to-end IPAWS lab environment, so alerting authorities may train, practice, and exercise alert, warning, and notification procedures and processes internally -- not seen or heard by the public.

FEMA Requirement: Separately from RMTs, emergency message originators with access to IPAWS must send monthly practice messages, called Monthly Proficiency Demonstrations (MPDs), using the TSSF. These mandatory MPDs are monitored for accountability. Repeated failure to send MPDs can ultimately result in loss of IPAWS access. For more information about the TSSF and its services, visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system/public-safety-officials/ipaws-technical-support-services-facility>.

In those months when the RMT is scheduled to originate from the Local Operational Area (CPS) via local alerting systems, it will be originated by one of the activating entities in the CPS Area. The SECC will assign activating entities to originate the RMT during the months when the test will be originated in the local operational area.

Note that days and times of the RMTs are determined by the SECC. They also determine which entity will originate the RMT during the months it is to be originated locally. The yearly schedule for these tests can be found at: <https://mil.wa.gov/wa-paws> (scroll down to current RMT schedule).

If an activating entity is unable to perform the RMT, it will immediately contact the WA EMD Duty Officer for reassignment. The LECC Chair should also be notified ASAP. When sending an RMT, the following settings should be used:

Event Code:	RMT
Location Codes:	Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish
Duration:	3 hours

The voice message will consist of the following script:

“This is a test of the Emergency Alert System. In the event of an emergency, this system would bring you important public safety information. The following tones will conclude this test.”

This 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 was to complete the alert in 30 seconds. Originators should make every attempt to complete this test within that time frame. Pre-recording the script at the length needed to achieve this is highly recommended.

Separately from the RMT, a test of the IPAWS notification system is also required monthly. While this test can be conducted at any time during the month, it is recommended that the test be completed in conjunction with the EAS RMT. On those months when an RMT is not required, the IPAWS monthly test can occur at any time.

7) Washington State Activation Procedures

Only the Governor or a designated representative, the state Emergency Management Director or a designated representative, or The National Weather Service Meteorologist-in-Charge, Seattle Weather or designated representatives are authorized to initiate (activate) a statewide emergency message via IPAWS.

It is assumed and encouraged that local activation of IPAWS will occur first for most events and state-level activation will rarely occur.

Actual activation messages will be initiated through the State Emergency Management Division's (WA EMD's) 24-hour duty officer.

There are four general conditions whereby the state Emergency Alert System will be activated:

- 1) An event of a high-magnitude incident requiring a message from state officials through the Washington Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) EOC.
- 2) Most circumstances dictate that the coordination, discussion, and decision process will take place between the WA EMD Duty Officer and the State Emergency Management Director, leading to issuance of an EAS message.
- 3) Rare circumstances, such as a time-critical lifesaving action requirement, could dictate that the duty officer make a quick decision to initiate a minimal or no-notice alert message before consulting with appropriate management. The duty officer is so empowered by pre-existing authority.
- 4) Local officials contact the WA EMD Duty Officer requesting the state issue an IPAWS or LRN message on behalf of local agencies.

Reasons could vary from known equipment/system failure to personnel problems. For purposes of this plan, "local official" is the person authorized to activate IPAWS.

A request from a local entity will come through the WA EMD duty officer via the 24-hour, toll-free line, or via the Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio, satellite radio, National Warning System (NAWAS), or the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) network. Such a request should be discussed with the Operations Supervisor, the Public Information Officer (PIO), and the Director, if possible. The local official making the request should also participate in the decision to use EAS and help compose the audio message to be sent. Unless there is a complete failure of the recording equipment, an audio file and the complete text of the IPAWS message must be provided.

Under either paragraph above, following IPAWS activation, it must be assumed that the activation of the system by the WA EMD Duty Officer will generate immediate calls from print and broadcast media, and the general public.

At the state level, the PIO of the Emergency Management Division will provide follow-up input to the broadcast and print media in the form of news releases for state-level activations, commensurate with the severity of the event.

8) County Activation Procedures

At the local level, pre-recorded news releases and pre-scripted social media posts should be available, and public information staff should be available immediately following the issuance of the alert message to provide necessary follow-up and answers to media queries.

Once the decision is made to initiate an IPAWS message, the duty officer or appropriate communications operator will first attempt to initiate the alert via a subscription service by the procedure outlined in the county EM policies and procedures.

If the subscription service is inaccessible, the alert can be initiated manually on the LRN from the Sage ENDEC. Directions for operating the Sage ENDEC can also be found in the policies and procedures file in the local EOC.

APPENDIX A – EVENT CODES

FEMA Fact Sheet
February 2021 1

Event Code Descriptions for Use with IPAWS

These Non-Weather Emergency Message (NWEM) event codes are available to state, local, tribal and territorial Alerting Authorities for use with the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS). The weather-related event codes, not listed here, are reserved for the National Weather Service. Use of these event codes by Alerting Authorities depends on established IPAWS permissions. The codes may be used with EAS, WEA, and/or NWEM except where indicated.

ADR – Administrative Message

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. (EAS & NWEM only)

AVA – Avalanche Watch

Conditions are favorable or expected but not imminent or occurring. The purpose of an Avalanche Watch is to warn the public that Avalanche Warning criteria are likely to be met in 24-48 hours. (EAS & NWEM only)

AVW – Avalanche Warning

Conditions are imminent or occurring.

BLU – Blue Alert

A message issued by state and local authorities to warn the public when there is actionable information, related to a law enforcement officer who is missing, seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, or when there is an imminent, credible threat to an officer. A Blue Alert could quickly warn the public if a violent suspect may be in your community, along with providing instructions on what to do if the suspect is spotted and how to stay safe.

CAE – Child Abduction Emergency

An emergency message, based on 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.

CDW – Civil Danger Warning

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).

CEM – Civil Emergency Message

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.

DMO – Practice/Demo Warning

A demonstration or test message used for particular purposes as established in state, local, tribal, or territorial EAS plans. Purposes may include testing of a siren system or audio quality checks.

EQW – Earthquake Warning

A warning of current or imminent earthquake activity. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance.

EVI – Immediate Evacuation

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

FRW – Fire Warning

A warning of a spreading wildfire or structure 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.

HMW – Hazardous Materials Warning

A warning of a release of 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).

APPENDIX B – ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
ACCESS	A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System
ACS	Auxiliary Communications Service (Amateur Radio)
AMBER	America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
CPS	Central Puget Sound operational area
COG	Collaborative Operating Group
DMO	Practice/Demo Warning
EAS	Emergency Alert System
ENDEC	Encoder/Decoder
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (FEMA)
LECC	Local Emergency Communications Committee
LRN	Local Relay Network
NAWAS	National Warning System
PAWS	Public Alert and Warning System
NWS	National Weather Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio
PIO	Public Information Officer
PSAP	Public Safety Access Point (911 Center)
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee

SRN	State Relay Network, accessed by the WA-EMD Emergency Operations Center
WA EMD	Washington Emergency Management Division
WA PAWS	Washington Public Alert and Warning System
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alerts

APPENDIX C – EM STAKEHOLDER POINTS OF CONTACT

CONFIDENTIAL – TO BE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY. INTERNET POSTING IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

APPENDIX D – BROADCAST STAKEHOLDER POINTS OF CONTACT

CONFIDENTIAL – TO BE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY. INTERNET POSTING IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

APPENDIX E – CPS LOCAL REPEATER NETWORK INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL – TO BE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY. INTERNET POSTING IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

APPENDIX F – RMT SCHEDULE

Scroll to current RMT Schedule found in Category B at this link: <https://mil.wa.gov/wa-paws>

APPENDIX G – VALUABLE LINKS

Washington Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (WA PAWS)

<https://mil.wa.gov/wa-paws>

FEMA – Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>

FCC EAS Handbook

<https://www.fcc.gov/file/24607/download>

APPENDIX H – APPROVAL SIGNATURES

Island County Department of Emergency Management - Eric Brooks, Director

Signature:



Date:

4/21/2023

Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management - Willie Bence, Director

Signature:

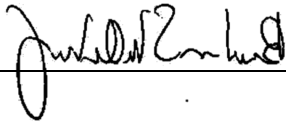


Date:

5-4-2023

King County Office of Emergency Management - Brendan McCluskey, Director

Signature:



Date:

1-May-2023

Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management - Jan Glarum, Acting Director

Signature:



Date:

4-22-23

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management - Jody Ferguson, Director

Signature:



Date:

7/12/2023

Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management - Lucia Schmit, Director

Signature:

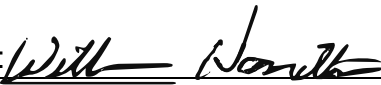


Date:

5/3/2023

NORCOM - Bill Hamilton, Executive Director

Signature:



Date:

04-26-2023

Central Puget Sound LECC – Phil Johnson, Chair

Signature:



Date:

03 MAY 2023