

STATE OF WISCONSIN
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
STATE EAS PLAN

FEBRUARY 2023

**EAS Participants should consult Page 2 for an easy guide to
What's New in this revised State EAS Plan.**

>> THIS PLAN IS ON THE INTERNET <<
Check the Internet site for updates... see Page 4

The FCC-required State EAS Plan details described in EAS rule Part 11.21(a) were submitted by the Wisconsin SECC and approved by the FCC, Chief, Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau, on:
February 03, 2023.

This SECC-hosted State EAS Plan and Appendices contain that FCC-approved information as well as additional details of use to Wisconsin EAS Participants.

This is what's new in this February 2023 Revision

In 2022, the FCC began requiring every State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) to enter certain State EAS Plan details into the FCC's Alert Reporting System (ARS) online portal. The Wisconsin SECC completed that process and gained FCC approval on those National level EAS details on February 3, 2023. Per FCC policy, that ARS data is not accessible by EAS Participants, thus this SECC-hosted State EAS Plan must be maintained as well for EAS Participant reference. This SECC-hosted State EAS Plan and Appendices contain that FCC-approved information described in EAS rule Part 11.21(a), as well as additional details of use to Wisconsin EAS Participants.

As part of the 2022/2023 ARS plan approvals, all States were required to have two distribution paths for the President's EAN message. Wisconsin has distributed the EAN via our State Relay (SR) stations since the beginning of EAS. In 2022 all Wisconsin LP-1 stations added EAN monitoring as well, providing a 2nd EAN path to all EAS Participants.

The Wisconsin SECC wishes to thank and acknowledge the efforts of all 9 of our LP-1 stations in installing this additional EAN monitoring, as well as to the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (ECB) for installing similar monitoring to enable a 3rd EAN source to our SR stations. The SECC's appreciation also goes to the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association for funding any needed equipment to fulfill this FCC mandate.

Blue Alert EAS Event Code BLU: The FCC added Event Code BLU to the EAS rules on 01/18/19. In Wisconsin, our Department of Justice is responsible for issuing Blue Alerts, and they have said they would NOT use EAS; rather using the Wisconsin Crime Alert Network (email, cell text and fax) as they do with Silver Alerts and Green Alerts. Thus, Wisconsin EAS Participants do not need to program the BLU Code into their EAS units. The SECC will advise if this DOJ policy changes.

2023 changes to the Wisconsin State EAS Plan

Appendix A: Dropped references to monitoring Low Band channel 45.12MHz, which is no longer used for EAS by any counties. The new EAN monitoring mentioned above was also added to each LP-1 monitoring table.

Appendix B: Updated NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) contact info.

Appendix C: Added notes on new EAS rule taking effect on 12/12/23 affecting naming of codes EAN, NPT, PEP and deleting of NIC code.

Appendix D: Updated FEMA Public Alerting Authority URL.

Appendix E: Call sign update on map and dropped North Central Area "Future" LP-1 site.

Appendix F: Updated intro and SECC membership list, including new EAS Chair*

Appendix J: Updated call sign and EAN Dissemination Path in Wisconsin diagram.

Appendix L: This is a new Appendix, added to contain SECC Governance Structure details as now required in FCC EAS rule Part 11.21(a).

Main EAS Plan: Contains the changes above, where they occur in the Main Plan.

* After 30+ years as Broadcast Chair of the Wisconsin EAS Committee (FCC SECC), Gary Timm decided to retire in 2023 after the FCC approval and updating of this State EAS Plan. The Wisconsin SECC unanimously elected committee member Chris Tarr as the next EAS Chair. Chris is Group Director of Engineering for Magnum Media, a Wisconsin radio group of 25 stations from Racine to Eau Claire. Chris Tarr: chris@tarr.cc

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EAS UNIT PROGRAMMING REQUESTED

- For Homeland Security and local county alerts, additional EAS unit programming is needed. Likely DHS codes: CEM, CDW, ADR (ADR is for cancellations). Possible other DHS and local county codes: HMW, NUW, RHW, EVI, LAE, SPW, FRW. Possible other local county codes: LEW, EQW, and TOE. All will use Originator Code: CIV Location Code: Use all counties in your “service area”.
- **STATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO ADD ALL 13 EVENT CODES ABOVE****
- See Page 24, and Appendix C, for details on this EAS unit programming.

PROGRAM EVENT CODE “CEM”

WISCONSIN WILL CONTINUE TO USE “CEM” FOR STATE ACTIVATIONS

Due to the fact that the FCC did not approve a State-Level EAS Activation Code, Wisconsin will continue to use the “CEM – Civil Emergency Message” Code when issuing a statewide EAS alert. With the 2015 State EAS Plan, the delivery method for the Governor’s EAS message has changed. Previously, the EAS alert was to advise EAS Participants and the public that the Governor was about to deliver a message, which was then delivered as a non-EAS message to avoid the 2-minute limit. EAS Participants were to carry that message manually. Acknowledging that in present times fewer and fewer stations and cable systems are staffed, the Governor’s message will now be delivered within an EAS alert.

WHAT EAS PARTICIPANTS NEED TO DO

To make this State Activation Procedure work, all SR and LP stations, as well as all broadcasters and cable systems in Wisconsin that wish to carry an address from the Governor, need to program their EAS Decoders as follows:

Add Event Code: **CEM** (Civil Emergency Message)

This Event should work with **Location Code: 055000**, and with these Originator Codes:

CIV (Civil Authorities) The normal originator of this message

EAS (Broadcaster or Cable System) In case message needs to be originated at ECB/OC

LOCAL PLANS: DROP “CEM”

Whereas the State EAS Activation Code will remain CEM, and since there are now specific Event Codes adopted for local emergencies, the Wisconsin EAS Committee requests that all Local Area and County EAS Plans phase out the use of the generic CEM Event Code in favor of using the new specific local Event Codes (see Appendix C of this Plan for a list and definitions of these Event Codes). The Event Code CEM will then become exclusive to the State EAS Activation, which the Committee feels will aid in the programming of EAS Decoders. We recommend that local activations needing a generic code use the Local Area Emergency (LAE) EAS Event Code.

Information on WISCONSIN AMBER ALERTS

There is no information in this Plan on Wisconsin Amber Alerts. For EAS Participant guidance, select the document “Wisconsin Amber Alert Guidance for Broadcasters and Cable Operators” on the Wisconsin EAS website at: <http://www.sbe24.org/EAS/>

PREFACE

WHERE TO FIND THE BASIC INFORMATION YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

- II. A.) National EAS Participation (The Minimum EAS Requirements)
Outlines the minimum requirements for EAS that all broadcasters and cable operators must follow.
- Appendix A.) Table of Monitoring Assignments for Legacy EAS
Lists the two over-the-air mandated sources you must monitor on your EAS Decoder, as well as other optional sources you may listen to.
- III. C.) CAP Alerting in Wisconsin – Describes the EAS CAP feed you must monitor.
- VIII.) Guidance for All Users in Programming their EAS Decoders in Wisconsin
- IV. E.) Wisconsin “L-Code” Formats
Outlines the format to be followed when entering the L-Code (also known as “Station Identification” or “Call Sign”) into your EAS Encoder.
- Appendix C.) Master List of EAS Event Codes Used in Wisconsin
Lists the Event Codes available for programming into your EAS Decoder. These are the only Event Codes to be used in Wisconsin.
- V. B.) Required Monthly Test
Describes the Day of the Month and Time of Day you can expect to receive this test, which must be re-broadcast within 60 minutes of receipt.
- VII.) Guidance for Originators and Users of EAS Alerts
Gives an overview of how SR Stations, LP Stations, National Weather Service, and Emergency Services agencies are expected to participate in the EAS.

THIS PLAN IS ON THE INTERNET...

How to Use the Internet to Keep Your Copy of the State EAS Plan Up-to-Date

This Plan is available on the Internet at: www.sbe24.org/eas/ as an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file. [If you do not have an Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, there is a link on our website to download one free.] It is suggested that you check our site on a regular basis for updates to this Plan. All files have a date in their title, so you can quickly compare titles of files on the website against those you currently have, to determine if you need to download a file to keep your Plan current. If you want to receive an e-mail notice of any updates to the Plan, please subscribe to the Wisconsin, Milwaukee, or Madison SBE Listserver.

To join the Wisconsin SBE Listserver, send email to: sbe-wi+subscribe@googlegroups.com

To join the Milwaukee SBE Listserver, send email to: sbe-mil+subscribe@googlegroups.com

To join the Madison SBE Listserver, send email to: sbe24+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Traffic on these listservers is fairly light. In addition to EAS Plan updates, they relay other EAS details and broadcaster information germane to the area described by the listserv name.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to Leonard Charles and Madison SBE Chapter 24 for maintaining the Wisconsin EAS Plan on the Internet.

Special Acknowledgement

The Wisconsin SECC wishes to acknowledge State Relay (SR-2) Station WXPR, in Rhinelander. Due to limited coverage of the State-operated SR station in this area, independent station WXPR has agreed to act as the SR-2 in this area. WXPR’s cooperation is appreciated by the Committee.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Update Page

This is what's new in this February 2023 Revision

Preface Page

Where to find the basic information EAS Participants need to get started
This Plan is available on the Internet

I. Intent and Purpose of this Plan

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

- A.) National EAS Participation
- B.) State/Local EAS Participation
- C.) Conditions of EAS Participation
- D.) Participation Disclaimer

III. Organization and Concepts of the Wisconsin State EAS

- A.) Station Designations
- B.) Other Definitions
- C.) Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Alerting in Wisconsin
- D.) Primary and Secondary Delivery Plan for Legacy EAS Messages
- E.) Type of Information to expect from each EAS Source
- Diagrams:
- F.) Redundancy of Individual Paths to the Local Broadcaster/Cable Operator
- G.) Combined Map of All State EAS Paths in a typical Local Area

IV. EAS Header Code Information

- A.) EAS Header Code Analysis
- B.) Wisconsin Originator Codes
- C.) Wisconsin Event Codes
- D.) Wisconsin Location Codes and Great Lakes Codes
- E.) Wisconsin "L-Code" Formats

V. EAS Tests

- A.) Required Weekly Test (RWT)
 - 1.) Transmission
 - 2.) Reception
- B.) Required Monthly Test (RMT)
 - 1.) Transmission
 - 2.) Scheduling of RMT's: Day and Time of Test
 - 3.) Reception/Re-transmission
- C.) Time-Duration, Originator Codes, and Location Codes used for EAS Tests

VI. Wisconsin EAS Scripts and Formats

- A.) Test Scripts and Formats
- B.) Real-Alert Activation Scripts and Formats

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

VII. Guidance for Originators and Users of EAS Alerts

- A.) Overview of State Relay (SR) Station Participation in the EAS
- B.) Overview of Local Primary (LP-1 and LP-2) Station Participation in the EAS
- C.) Overview of National Weather Service Participation in the EAS
- D.) Overview of Emergency Services Participation in the EAS

VIII. Guidance for All Users in Programming their EAS Decoders in Wisconsin

- A.) Initial Set-Up of EAS Encoder
- B.) Programming for Incoming Alerts
 - 1.) Modes of Operation
 - 2.) Event Codes You Must Program into your EAS Decoder
 - 3.) Suggested Programming Sequence for Setting Up your EAS Decoder

Appendix A: Table of Monitoring Assignments for Legacy EAS

Appendix B: NOAA Weather Radio Stations and Coverage

Appendix C: Master List of EAS Event Codes Used in Wisconsin

Appendix D: Authorized Sources for Activating the EAS

Appendix E: Boundary Map of Wisconsin EAS Local Areas

Appendix F: Wisconsin State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) Members

Appendix G: Approvals

Appendix H: Master List of EAS Monitoring Assignment Waivers Issued in Wisconsin

Appendix I: not used

Appendix J: FCC Mapbook for Wisconsin

Appendix K: 2017 FCC-Required Multilingual Alerting Activity Summary

Appendix L: SECC Governance Structure

Questions on the Emergency Alert System should be directed to:

Chris Tarr, SECC Broadcast Chair
Group DoE, Magnum Media
133 Baron Road
Mukwonago, WI 53149
262-577-9070
chris@tarr.cc

Federal Communications Commission
EAS Office
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554
202-418-1300
202-418-1122, 24/7 Operations Center

For FCC EAS Orders and Public Notices: <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-alert-system>
For FCC EAS Chair and State Plan Approval List: <https://www.fcc.gov/SECC-Resources>

I. Intent and Purpose of this Plan

This Plan, based on details provided to and approved by the FCC, outlines the organization and implementation of the State of Wisconsin Emergency Alert System (EAS). It is the guideline for Wisconsin broadcasters and subject cable TV operators to determine: their mandated and optional monitoring assignments, codes to be used in the EAS Header sequence in this state, schedule of the Required Monthly Tests (RMT's) which must be relayed by all broadcasters and cable operators within 60 minutes of reception, and any other elements of the EAS which are unique to this state. This Plan outlines how the Governor of this state, the National Weather Service and local/regional officials can deliver EAS messages to the public. It further outlines the framework for how emergency management agencies and EAS Participants can work together to assure that residents in the State of Wisconsin can receive timely information that will better help them take protective actions to save lives and property. This Plan is administered by the Wisconsin State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC); see Appendix F for a list of SECC members. This Plan is an adjunct to the FCC EAS Rules, and is not meant to be a summary, in whole or in part, of those Rules. Consult FCC Rules Part 11 for general rules regarding the Emergency Alert System.

Wisconsin does not currently utilize a CAP server or its own CAP distribution within the state, thus this Plan presently addresses CAP message distribution via the FEMA IPAWS CAP feed only. See Section III. C. of this Plan for details on CAP Alerting in Wisconsin.

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

A.) National EAS Participation

All broadcasters and subject cable operators are now designated as "PN" (Participating National) and are required to participate in the National-level EAS by carrying all Presidential messages (EAN) and Nationwide Tests of the EAS (NPT). In addition, all broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly EAS Test (RWT), log all received RWT Tests, and once a month must re-transmit the Required Monthly Test (RMT) within 60 minutes of receiving it on their EAS Decoder.

B.) State/Local EAS Participation

Participation in the State and/or Local Area EAS is voluntary for all broadcasters and cable operators. However, any stations/cable operators electing to participate in the State and/or Local Area EAS must then follow the procedures found in this Plan.

C.) Conditions of EAS Participation

Acceptance of/or participation in this Plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast licensee from exercising its independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Stations and cable systems originating EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority. The concept of management of each broadcast station and cable system to exercise discretion regarding the broadcast of emergency information to the general public is provided by FCC Rules.

D.) Participation Disclaimer

Notwithstanding any good-faith intentions to carry State and Local EAS alerts, due to the voluntary nature of the EAS at those levels, no owner, management or individual personnel at any Wisconsin broadcast station, cable system, or state broadcast network may be held liable by any person or entity for the failure to transmit any particular EAS alert, whether that failure is intentional or unintentional, and regardless of the effect that failure has on any person or entity.

SR, LP-1, and LP-2 stations in particular, which agree by accepting that EAS Designation to monitor additional EAS sources and to re-transmit certain EAS alerts, are merely demonstrating their intentions to perform such additional duties, not guaranteeing their performance.

III. Organization and Concepts of the Wisconsin EAS

A.) Station Designations

These are the FCC's EAS Station Designations, reflecting the EAS status of every broadcaster and cable operator. The "FCC Mapbook" in Appendix J of this Plan specifically identifies SR and LP stations; all other EAS Participants are considered to have the EAS Station Designation of PN.

NP (National Primary) Sources = Sources of all National EAS Alerts. These sources will be monitored by the ECB/OC and all LP-1 stations. National EAS Alerts will also be distributed by Wisconsin's Primary Entry Point (PEP) Station WTMJ-AM, as well as in the future on FEMA's EAS CAP feed; see Section III. C. of this Plan for details on the FEMA EAS CAP feed.

SP (State Primary) Source = ECB/OC is the Wisconsin SP. See description below in Section (B.).

SR (State Relay) Station = In all Wisconsin EAS Areas, a State-operated FM station which is programmed directly from Madison. SR stations are primarily sources of State EAS Messages. They will also be relaying National, Local, and Weather Alerts.

LP-1 (Local Primary) Station = Although LP-1 stations are primarily sources of Local Area Emergency EAS Messages, in 2022 they also added monitoring for the National EAN message. They will thus be relaying National, State, Local and Weather Alerts. As an optional back-up source, an LP-2 Station has also been designated in every Local Area. Information in this Plan relating to LP-1's, other than the additional EAN monitoring, also applies to LP-2's in each Area.

PN (Participating National) Sources = All non-SR/LP broadcasters and cable operators are designated as "PN". These sources are for delivering all levels of EAS to the general public.

B.) Other Definitions

The following are other terms used in the organization of the Wisconsin EAS Plan.

STATE EOC = Wisconsin State Emergency Operations Center in Madison. Origination point of messages from the Governor, as well as some RMT's.

EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD / OPERATIONS CENTER (ECB/OC) = The operations center that monitors for national EAS alerts and relays State EAS Activations and RMTs to the "SR" stations. It is also a back-up origination point for State EAS Activations.

COUNTY ALERT ORIGINATOR = County-level EAS alerts are typically issued by the Sheriff Dispatch Center, Emergency Management Office, or 911-Center. These dispatch points are encouraged to acquire access to FEMA IPAWS alerting. See Section III. C. of this Plan for details on the FEMA EAS CAP feed.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO (NWR) = Under the EAS, NOAA Weather Radio stations are encoding all of their alerts using the same coding as used for EAS Alerts. Broadcasters and cable operators can feed their EAS Decoders with the audio from any normal NOAA Weather Radio receiver, and their EAS Decoder will react just as it does with broadcaster EAS codes.

NP (PEP) = EAN monitoring source: Primary Entry Point station WTMJ-AM, Milwaukee

NP (NPR) = EAN monitoring source: National Public Radio Squawk Channel

NP (SXM) = EAN monitoring source: SiriusXM Preview Channel 01

NP (PrNet) = EAN monitoring source: Premiere Networks FEMA Channel

C.) Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Alerting in Wisconsin

EAS is now part of FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), which disseminates messages based on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). FEMA has established an Internet-based feed to provide CAP messages to all EAS Participants.

[FEMA IPAWS information is at: <http://www.fema.gov/ipaws/>]

FCC-Mandated CAP Monitoring

As of June 30, 2012, EAS Participants must have equipment installed to receive EAS alerts in the CAP format, and must be connected to the Internet and monitoring the FEMA EAS CAP feed. EAS Participants should contact the manufacturer of their EAS-CAP unit for details how to configure the unit to properly monitor the FEMA EAS CAP feed. Note that FEMA sends RWTs on this feed, and the Wisconsin EAS Committee recommends that EAS Participants log these RWTs to demonstrate proper monitoring of this required feed.

FCC Waiver

EAS Participants with "physical unavailability of broadband Internet service" can apply for an FCC waiver from the requirement of having EAS CAP equipment. The waiver must be renewed every 6 months, and legacy EAS monitoring assignments must still be maintained.

Use of CAP Enhanced Text Required

When airing received CAP messages, the FCC requires the use of the enhanced CAP text in video crawls. FCC EAS Fifth Report & Order paragraph 30 states, "Accordingly, we are requiring EAS Participants to create video crawls based upon the enhanced text contained within the CAP message to the extent that such text files are provided by the alert initiator..."

No Wisconsin CAP Server Utilized

Wisconsin does not utilize a CAP server or have its own CAP distribution within the state; messages will be routed through FEMA IPAWS.

Wisconsin Authorities Originating IPAWS CAP Messages

To originate IPAWS CAP messages, authorities must follow the procedures found on FEMA's website, which also has a link to a list of counties and agencies authorized to use IPAWS:

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

CAP Monitoring Does Not Replace Legacy EAS Monitoring

As noted in the next section, EAS Rule §11.52 (d)(1) still requires EAS Participants to monitor the two analog Monitoring Assignments found in their State EAS Plan.

D.) Primary and Secondary Delivery Plan for Legacy EAS Messages

EAS Rule §11.52 (d)(1) still requires EAS Participants to monitor the two analog Monitoring Assignments found in their State EAS Plan. One task of this Plan is to determine a primary and secondary delivery method for each level of legacy EAS alert. This goal was surpassed for many broadcasters and cable operators. For stations/operators electing to monitor only the two assigned sources, two paths for each alert are provided. Stations/operators adding the two optional legacy EAS sources will have at least three paths on all alerts, plus IPAWS as a fourth path. Using the Designations and Definitions outlined in this section, the redundancy of the Wisconsin State EAS Plan is diagrammed on the following pages. For clarity, the first page shows the distribution paths for each level of EAS drawn out separately. Thus, some communications paths are delivering more than one level of EAS alert. The second page maps out all of the State EAS paths on one diagram. Consult Appendix A of this Plan, "Table of Monitoring Assignments for Legacy EAS", to determine the two mandated and three optional sources that each broadcaster and cable operator should monitor.

E.) Type of Information to expect from each EAS Source

Monitoring the FEMA EAS CAP Feed: Wisconsin will route State EAS Alerts on this feed, any county/local agencies with IPAWS Public Alerting Authority can send EAS CAP alerts via this feed, and in the future FEMA will provide National EAS Alerts on its CAP feed.

Monitoring Wisconsin's Primary Entry Point (PEP) Station WTMJ-AM: EAS Participants that choose to optionally monitor the Wisconsin PEP station will receive National EAS Alerts directly.

Monitoring your SR, LP-1 and LP-2 Stations: The SR and LP Stations, by accepting their EAS Designation, have agreed to monitor more than the two mandated sources, as shown on the following diagrams and in the Monitoring Assignment Tables. The SR and LP Stations will thus ensure that all EAS messages reach all other stations and cable systems. However, individual broadcasters and cable operators are strongly encouraged to monitor these additional sources themselves, receiving these alerts directly rather than relying on a relay through the SR or LP Station. The SR and LP Stations then become a back-up, as opposed to the only means of receiving these alerts. The SR and LP Stations have also agreed to carry Tornado Warnings, Flash Flood Warnings, and Civil Emergency Messages for all of their "counties of responsibility", as well as State EAS Activations. For more details, see "Guidance for Originators and Users of EAS Alerts."

Monitoring Weather Radio: NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) will be transmitting an EAS-type code using the NWR SAME Encoder (Specific Area Message Encoder), which will be detected by your EAS Decoder. NWR will be sending codes for all weather Warnings, Watches, and Statements. As of June 2004, NWR will also be relaying alerts issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In 2021, NWR added Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM) alerts, originated by local Emergency Management officials via IPAWS. NWR will also be sending the RWT Test Code once a week, and the RMT Test Code as outlined in the table found under the "Required Monthly Test" section of this Plan. For more details, see "Guidance for Originators and Users of EAS Alerts" section.

Monitoring County Alert Originators: Many Wisconsin counties are now authorized to send messages via FEMA's IPAWS. Broadcasters and cable operators are encouraged to monitor IPAWS for local/county messages, and to foster a relationship with their local County Sheriff and/or Emergency Management Director to establish what constitutes an appropriate EAS message in their local area. A County/Local Area EAS Plan could be written to detail the procedures to be followed. It can be modeled after this State Plan, and include references to it. Scripts to use at the County/Local Area level can be found in the "EAS Scripts and Formats" section of this Plan. Your County/Local Area Plan should then be submitted to your LAECC Chair for inclusion in the State EAS Plan.

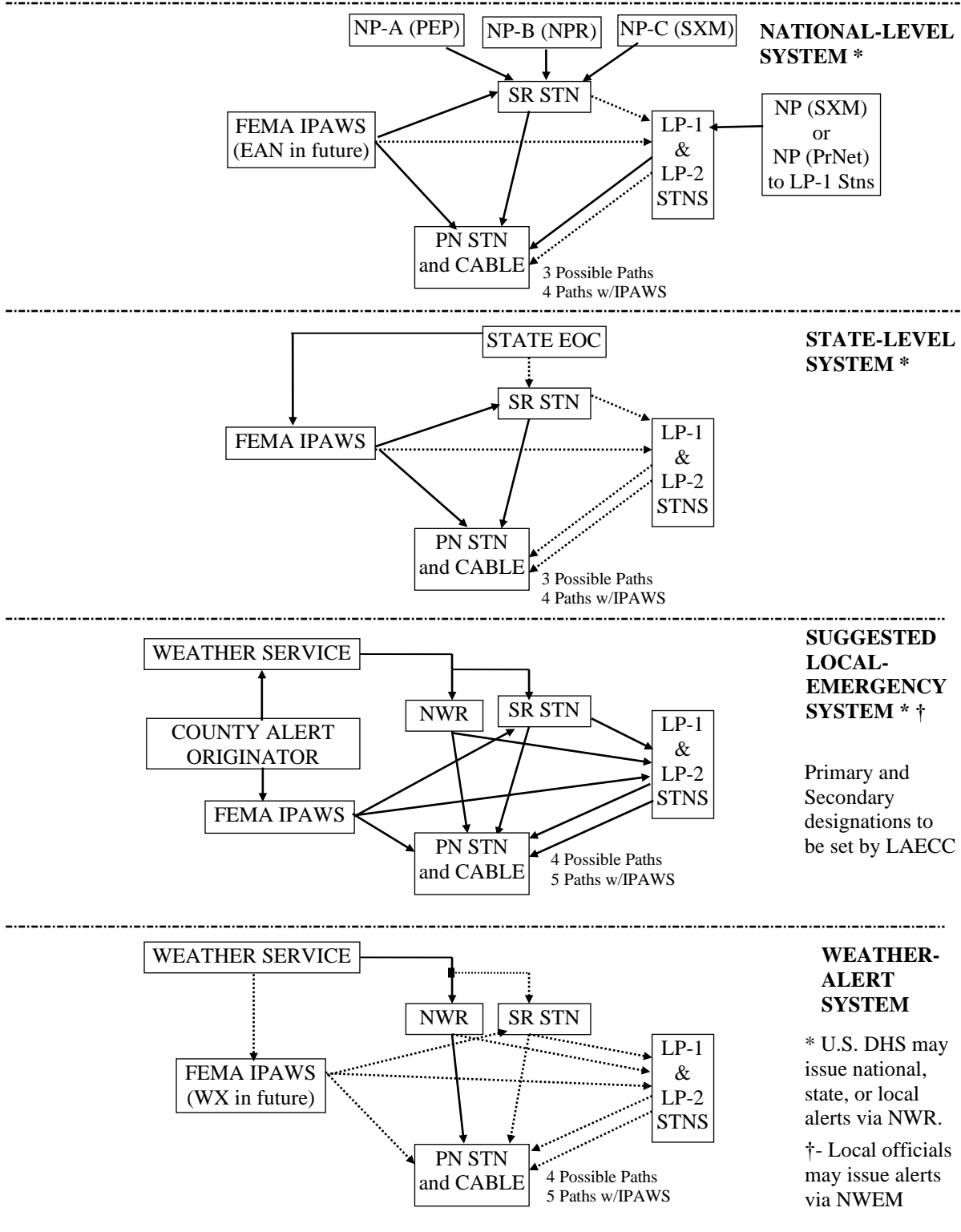
For more details, see "Guidance for Originators and Users of EAS Alerts" section.

III. Organization and Concepts of the Wisconsin State EAS

F.) Redundancy of Individual Paths to the Local Broadcaster / Cable Operator

Consult preceding Section (A.) Station Designations and Section (B.) Other Definitions for clarification on sources represented in boxes.

Legend:
 Primary Path = —————→
 Secondary Path =→

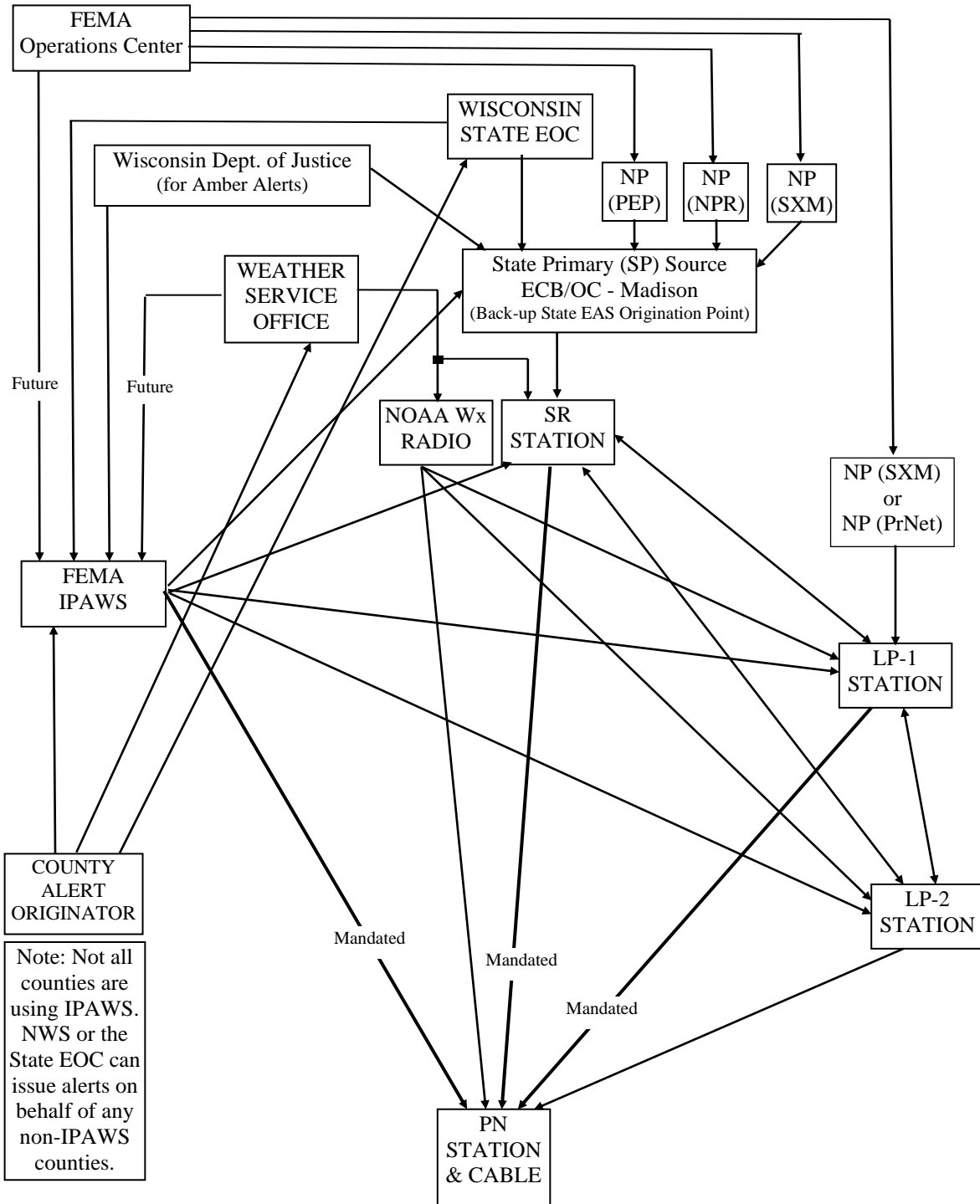


* U.S. DHS may issue national, state, or local alerts via NWR.
 †- Local officials may issue alerts via NWEM

III. Organization and Concepts of the Wisconsin State EAS

G.) Combined Map of All State EAS Paths in a typical Local Area

Note: Consult preceding Section (A.) Station Designations and Section (B.) Other Definitions for clarification on sources represented in boxes below.



IV. EAS Header Code Information

A.) EAS Header Code Analysis

An EAS Header Code contains the following elements, sent in the following sequence:

- [Preamble] ZCZC-ORG-EEE-PSSCCC+TTTT-JJHHMM-LLLLLLLL-
- Attention Signal
- Aural, Visual, or Text Message
- [Preamble] NNNN

[Preamble] = (Clears the system) - Sent automatically by your Encoder.

ZCZC = (Start of ASCII Code) - Sent automatically by your Encoder.

ORG = (Originator Code) - Preset once by user, then sent automatically by your Encoder. See following Section (B.) for code you must use.

EEE = (Event Code) - Determined by user, each time an alert is sent. See following Section (C.) for the only codes to be used in Wisconsin.

PSSCCC = (Location Code) - Determined by user, each time an alert is sent. See following Section (D.) for the assigned codes of all Wisconsin counties.

TTTT = (Duration of Alert) - Determined by user, each time an alert is sent.

JJHHMM = (Date/Time-of-Day) - Sent automatically by your Encoder.

LLLLLLLL = (8-Character ID, Identifying the Broadcaster, Cable TV, Weather Service Office, or Civil Authority operating that Encoder.)

Preset once by user, then sent automatically by your Encoder. See following Section (E.) for format to be followed by all users in constructing their "L-Code".

Attention Signal - Must be sent if aural message is sent; duration must be exactly 8 seconds.

[Preamble] = (Re-clears the system) - Sent automatically by your Encoder when you initiate the End-of-Message sequence.

NNNN = (End-of-Message Code) - Must be initiated manually at the end of every EAS Alert originated by all sources. A failure of the system will occur if this code is not sent to reset the Decoders of all stations/operators that carried that alert.

B.) Wisconsin Originator Codes

Following are the only Originator Codes to be used by sources in Wisconsin:

WXR - To be used by National Weather Service Offices.

CIV - To be used by Emergency Management, Sheriffs, and all other Civil Authorities.

EAS - To be used by all Broadcasters and Cable TV Operators.

C.) Wisconsin Event Codes

The Wisconsin Event Codes are listed, with definitions, in Appendix C. of this Plan.

Whether used under the authority of the State EAS Plan, or any of the County/Local Area EAS Plans, Appendix C. contains the only Event Codes to be used in the State of Wisconsin by anyone for any purpose. County/Local Area EAS Plans which desire to use a code not on this list, should submit that code request to the SECC for approval and subsequent addition to the list. Appendix C. will be maintained as a “Master List” for all Event Codes used in the State of Wisconsin.

D.) Wisconsin Location Codes (“PSSCCC”)

The first digit (“P”) can be used to indicate one-ninth of the county code or State code it precedes, in the following pattern:

0 = Entire County (or State)

1 = NW	2 = N	3 = NE
4 = W	5 = C	6 = E
7 = SW	8 = S	9 = SE

The remaining 5 digits (“SSCCC”) indicate the county, as listed below. An SSSCC of 55000 indicates the entire State, which in Wisconsin can use the subdivision codes above for issuing Amber Alerts. See bottom of Page 3 for guidance on Wisconsin Amber Alerts. [Note: Although the “FIPS Codes” are now known as “ANSI Numbers”, the actual code numbers did not change.]

<u>County</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Code</u>
Adams	55001	Iowa	55049	Polk	55095
Ashland	55003	Iron	55051	Portage	55097
Barron	55005	Jackson	55053	Price	55099
Bayfield	55007	Jefferson	55055	Racine	55101
Brown	55009	Juneau	55057	Richland	55103
Buffalo	55011	Kenosha	55059	Rock	55105
Burnett	55013	Kewaunee	55061	Rusk	55107
Calumet	55015	La Crosse	55063	St. Croix	55109
Chippewa	55017	Lafayette	55065	Sauk	55111
Clark	55019	Langlade	55067	Sawyer	55113
Columbia	55021	Lincoln	55069	Shawano	55115
Crawford	55023	Manitowoc	55071	Sheboygan	55117
Dane	55025	Marathon	55073	Taylor	55119
Dodge	55027	Marinette	55075	Trempealeau	55121
Door	55029	Marquette	55077	Vernon	55123
Douglas	55031	Menominee	55078	Vilas	55125
Dunn	55033	Milwaukee	55079	Walworth	55127
Eau Claire	55035	Monroe	55081	Washburn	55129
Florence	55037	Oconto	55083	Washington	55131
Fond du Lac	55039	Oneida	55085	Waukesha	55133
Forest	55041	Outagamie	55087	Waupaca	55135
Grant	55043	Ozaukee	55089	Waushara	55137
Green	55045	Pepin	55091	Winnebago	55139
Green Lake	55047	Pierce	55093	Wood	55141

See next page for the Marine Location Codes for the waters of the Great Lakes.

D.) Wisconsin Location Codes (continued)

Marine Location Codes [used by NWS to issue weather alerts for the waters of the Great Lakes]

Southeast Wisconsin EAS Area / Marine Codes	
EAS Code	Lake Area it refers to:
92543	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Sheboygan to Two Rivers
92643	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Sheboygan to Port Washington
92644	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Port Washington to Milwaukee
92645	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Milwaukee to Racine
92646	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Racine to Winthrop Harbor, Illinois
92669	Lake Michigan from Sheboygan to Port Washington 5NM off shore to mid lake
92671	Lake Michigan from Port Washington to Milwaukee 5NM off shore to mid lake
92673	Lake Michigan from Milwaukee to Racine 5NM off shore to mid lake
92675	Lake Michigan from Racine to Winthrop Harbor, Illinois 5NM off shore to midlake
92760	Entire Lake Michigan open waters

East Central Wisconsin EAS Area / Marine Codes	
EAS Code	Lake Area it refers to:
92543	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Two Rivers to Sheboygan
92542	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Sturgeon Bay to Two Rivers
92541	Nearshore waters of Lake Michigan from Rock Island to Sturgeon Bay
92567	Lake Michigan from Two Rivers to Sheboygan 5NM off shore to mid lake
92565	Lake Michigan from Sturgeon Bay to Two Rivers 5NM off shore to mid lake
92563	Lake Michigan from Rock Island to Sturgeon Bay 5NM off shore to mid lake
92521	The Bay of Green Bay north of a line from Marinette to Fish Creek
92522	The Bay of Green Bay south of a line from Marinette to Fish Creek
92221	The Bay of Green Bay north of a line from Rock Island to Cedar River, Michigan
92760	Entire Lake Michigan open waters

Northwest and North Central Wisconsin EAS Areas / Marine Codes	
EAS Code	Lake Area it refers to:
91143	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Silver Bay Harbor to Two Harbors, Minnesota
91144	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Two Harbors to Duluth, Minnesota
91145	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Duluth, Minnesota to Port Wing, Wisconsin
91146	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Port Wing to Sand Island, Wisconsin
91147	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Sand Island to Bayfield, Wisconsin
91121	The waters of Chequamegon Bay from Bayfield to Oak Point, Wisconsin
91148	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Oak Point to Saxon Harbor, Wisconsin
91240	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Saxon Harbor, Wisconsin to Black River, Michigan
91241	Nearshore waters of Lake Superior from Black River to Ontonagon, Michigan
91162	Far open waters of Western Lake Superior

Note: Although all EAS unit manufacturers offer an upgrade which includes the Marine Location Codes, not all units will display the complete description of each Lake Code, as above. In any event, the full descriptions are given here in order to aid all EAS users in defining the meanings of these Marine Location Codes if and when they are received in an NWS alert.

V. EAS Tests

The following requirements regarding both RWT’s and RMT’s apply to all subject cable operators and all broadcasters. Even stations that have elected not to participate in local EAS alerts, must still rebroadcast their local RMT every month. There are some exceptions to these rules. Cable systems with less than 5000 subscribers, Class “D” FM, LPFM, and LPTV stations need not have an EAS Encoder. They must have an EAS Decoder. Thus, these cable systems and stations are exempt from running the weekly digital code RWT test. However, they must retransmit monthly RMT tests as outlined below, minus the EAS Header Codes and Attention Signal. In addition, LPTV stations must present all EAS information visually, just as all other TV stations must do. The second exception is for repeater/satellite stations that rebroadcast 100% of their hub station, and FM Translator and TV Translator stations, all of which are exempt from having any EAS equipment.

A.) Required Weekly Test (RWT)

- 1.) Transmission: All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit an RWT once each week at random days and times. There are no time-of-day restrictions. This is a 10.5-second test, consisting only of the EAS Header and End-of-Message Codes. The RWT does not need to be sent during a week that the Required Monthly Test (RMT) is broadcast.
- 2.) Reception: All broadcasters and cable operators receiving a RWT from one of their monitored sources must log receipt of this test. No further action is required. While not specifically required, it is recommended that EAS Participants log RWTs received on the IPAWS CAP feed.

B.) Required Monthly Test (RMT)

- 1.) Transmission: RMT’s are to be originated by staff of NOAA Weather Radio stations, the State EOC*, and occasionally FEMA**. On the first Wednesday of each month, all other broadcasters and cable operators are to wait for this test and then react as described in (3.) below. These tests shall always use the Event Code “RMT”. See next page for Originator Code used by each entity.
- 2.) Scheduling of RMT’s / Day-of-Week and Time-of-Day

Due to a consensus among Wisconsin broadcasters at the 1997 WBA EAS Summit:

Due to a consensus among Wisconsin broadcasters at the 1997 WBA EAS Summit:

- All RMT’s shall take place on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Time frame and origination of the RMT tests shall adhere to the following format:

MONTH	TIME FRAME	SOURCE	ORIGINATING STAFF
JANUARY	DAY / 8:50 AM	NWR	Each NWS Office Staff
FEBRUARY	NITE / 11:50 PM	IPAWS	Wisconsin State EOC Staff
MARCH	DAY / 8:50 AM	NWR	Each NWS Office Staff
APRIL	NITE / 11:50 PM	IPAWS	Wisconsin State EOC Staff
MAY	DAY / 8:50 AM	NWR	Each NWS Office Staff
JUNE	NITE / 11:50 PM	IPAWS	Wisconsin State EOC Staff
JULY	DAY / 8:50 AM	NWR	Each NWS Office Staff
AUGUST	NITE / 11:50 PM	IPAWS	Wisconsin State EOC Staff
SEPTEMBER	DAY / 8:50 AM	NWR	Each NWS Office Staff
OCTOBER	NITE / 11:50 PM	IPAWS	Wisconsin State EOC Staff
NOVEMBER	DAY / 8:50 AM	NWR	Each NWS Office Staff
DECEMBER	NITE / 11:50 PM	IPAWS	Wisconsin State EOC Staff

- NWR = NOAA Weather Radio will originate test. If you do not monitor NWR directly, you will get test relayed from the SR and LP-1 stations you monitor. NWR tests are run independently by each individual NWS office throughout the state.
 - IPAWS = State EOC originates test via IPAWS, or legacy EAS delivered via SR stations.
- * As a back-up, RMTs may be originated by Wisc. ECB/OC and delivered via the SR stations.
 ** As of 2020, notice will be given via the WI SBE Listservers of occasional FEMA WI RMTs.

B.) Required Monthly Test (RMT) [Continued]

3.) Reception / Re-transmission of RMT's

All broadcasters and cable operators receiving an RMT test must re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving the test. [For Daytime-only stations receiving a night-time RMT, this test must be re-transmitted within 60 minutes of the Daytime-only station's sign-on.]

While broadcasters and cable systems are allowed to delay re-transmission of the RMT for up to 60 minutes, the Wisconsin SECC would encourage broadcasters and cable systems to relay the RMT as soon as programming will allow... reserving the maximum 60-minute limit for only the most unusual circumstances where a break in programming does not occur earlier.

Transmission of this RMT test takes the place of the Required Weekly Test (RWT). Times should be logged for both the receipt and re-transmission of the RMT test. Broadcast and cable management should impress upon their staff that re-transmission of this test is not an option. It is an FCC violation to fail to re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving it. If your EAS Unit has the capability, the best policy may be to set your unit for a 60-minute automatic countdown upon receiving an RMT. If the operator on duty does not send the test manually within that window, the box will do it for him/her when time runs out. Again, however, the Wisconsin SECC encourages broadcasters and cable systems to relay the RMT as soon as programming will allow.

C.) Time-Duration, Originator Codes, and Location Codes used for EAS Tests

- RMT Test TIME-DURATION used in the EAS Header Code shall be 60 MINUTES.
- RWT Test TIME-DURATION used in the EAS Header Code shall be at least 15 MINUTES.

ORIGINATOR CODES and LOCATION CODES

Source sending the test:	Originator Code for all EAS tests	RWT Location Codes	RMT Location Codes
NWR stations	WXR	All counties for which the NWR station does weather alerts, as shown in Appendix B. of this Plan.	All counties designated in Appendix B. to be included in that NWR station's RMT.
State EOC via IPAWS	CIV	Location 055000, Entire State of Wisconsin, Sent via IPAWS at approximately 10:15AM on the first Wednesday of each month.	Location 055000 Entire State of Wisconsin
FEMA	PEP	FEMA sends 055000 RWT via IPAWS on Mondays at 11AM.	Location 055000, Entire State of Wisconsin
SR Stations	EAS	All counties in that SR station's Local Area of responsibility.*	** Location 055000 Entire State of Wisconsin
LP Stations	EAS	All counties in that LP station's Local Area of responsibility.*	Relayed as received, except for the L-Code.
PN Stations and Cable Operators	EAS	County code for the station's or cable system's City of License, plus other counties in their service area at management discretion.	Relayed as received, except for the L-Code.

* To determine the counties in their Local Area of responsibility, each SR and LP station should consult the "Boundary Map of Wisconsin EAS Local Areas", and/or the Cover Sheet for the "FCC Mapbook", both found in the Appendix of this Plan.

** As a back-up, RMTs may be originated by Wisc. ECB/OC and delivered via the SR stations.

VI. Wisconsin EAS Scripts and Formats

A.) Test Scripts and Formats

When originating EAS tests, the following test scripts and formats shall be used by all Wisconsin broadcasters, cable operators, emergency agencies, and the National Weather Service.

1.) RWT: No script is required for the RWT, but one may be used at management discretion. The entire code-portion of the test takes 10.5 seconds. Format is as follows:

- Stop regular programming
- one-second pause
- Send EAS Header Code 3 times
- one-second pause
- Send EAS End-of-Message Code 3 times
- one-second pause
- Resume normal programming

2.) RMT: When originating the RMT Test, the following format should be used by the State EOC staff, National Weather Service staff, ECB/OC staff when acting in a back-up capacity, and by FEMA staff for occasional arranged RMTs. All other broadcasters and cable operators will receive the test in this format, and must re-transmit it within 60 minutes in the same format. Format is as follows:

- Stop regular programming
- Optional Intro: “This is a test of the (Local Area) Wisconsin Emergency Alert System.”
- one-second pause
- Send EAS Header Code 3 times [Event Code: RMT, Originator Code: CIV, WXR, EAS, PEP]
- one-second pause
- Send EAS Attention Signal (8 seconds) [NWS use the 10-second, 1050 Hz Alert Tone.]
- Read Test Script: **“This is a test of the (Local Area) Wisconsin Emergency Alert System. In the event of an emergency, this system would bring you important information. This test is now concluded.”**
- one-second pause
- Send EAS End-of-Message Code 3 times
- one-second pause
- Resume normal programming

Timing Note: The script above can be read in 9-10 seconds. All other elements of the RMT (the Header Codes and an 8-second Attention Signal) take from 19-21 seconds to complete (that length depending on the number of county codes contained in the Header). The goal of writing this short script was to fit the entire test into a 30-second time period. RMT originators should make every attempt to complete this test within 30 seconds. Pre-recording the script at the length needed to achieve this goal would probably be helpful.

Script Note: (Local Area) = State EOC, ECB/OC, and FEMA: Use the phrase, “State of”.

NWR: Use the name of the Local Area found in this Plan that the NWR Transmitter is located in (such as “Southeast, etc.)

B.) Real-Alert Activation Scripts and Formats

1.) STATE ACTIVATION

IPAWS-Originated Messages: The preferred method for issuing the Governor's EAS message will be via IPAWS. State EOC staff shall use established procedures to log into the state's CAP vendor website to originate the alert.

Legacy-EAS-Originated Messages: The State EOC shall transmit the following messages to all Wisconsin broadcasters and cable operators via the SR station network previously described, following the protocols outlined in the Governor's EAS Activation Procedure - Standard Operating Procedure.

FORMAT FOR A LEGACY EAS MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- Send EAS Header Code 3 times [with Event Code "CEM", and Originator Code "CIV"]
- one-second pause
- Send EAS Attention Signal (8 seconds)
- Send message, such as:
 - "This is an activation of the State of Wisconsin Emergency Alert System. This is not a test. This is a statement from the Office of the Governor."
 - Describe situation and the action requested of the public.
 - Repeat announcement once.
 - Maximum message length is 2 minutes (restricted by the FCC EAS protocol).
- one-second pause
- Send EAS End-of-Message Code 3 times
- one-second pause

B.) Real-Alert Activation Scripts and Formats (Continued)

2.) LOCAL AREA LEGACY EAS ACTIVATION

Areas that have developed a specific Local Area EAS Plan will have their own Activation Format presented in their Local Area Plan. The following is a suggested Local Area Activation Format for general use by Areas that have not developed a specific EAS Plan.

- Stop regular programming
- Optional Intro: “We interrupt our programming to activate the (Local Area) Wisconsin Emergency Alert System. Important information will follow.” (0:05)
- one-second pause
- Send EAS Header Code 3 times (Use appropriate Event Code from the list and the definitions provided in “Wisconsin Event Codes” Appendix C. of this Plan*.)
- one-second pause
- Send EAS Attention Signal (8 seconds)
- Activation Announcement: “We interrupt our regular programming to activate the (Local Area) Wisconsin Emergency Alert System. At the request of (Emergency Agency), all EAS stations in (Local Area) Wisconsin should re-broadcast the following (Type of Alert/Matches Event Code) Announcement. This is the (Local Area) Wisconsin Emergency Alert System. Important information will follow.” (0:25)
- Broadcast emergency message.
- Termination Announcement: “This is the (Local Area) Wisconsin Emergency Alert System. All (Local Area) Wisconsin EAS stations are requested to re-broadcast the preceding announcement, which was issued by (Emergency Agency). We now resume normal programming.” (0:15)
- one-second pause
- Send EAS End-of-Message Code 3 times
- one-second pause
- Resume normal programming

* Local/county authorities should not use the Event Codes CEM, RMT, or CAE. Local activations needing a generic code should use the Local Area Emergency (LAE) EAS Event Code.

VII. Guidance for Originators and Users of EAS Alerts

A.) Overview of State Relay (SR) Station Participation in the EAS

By accepting their EAS Designation, SR Stations have agreed to the following:

- Sources to be monitored: All Mandated and Optional (“Agreed”) sources shown for each SR station in the Monitoring Assignment Tables of this Plan.
- Counties of Responsibility: Consult COVERSHEET of FCC Mapbook at end of this Plan to determine the “Counties of Responsibility” of each SR Station.
- EAS Tests: When originating the RWT test, the Header Code should contain all of the SR Station’s “Counties of Responsibility”. The RMT should use the (055000) State code.
- EAS Alerts to be re-broadcast: A received EAS alert with the following Event Codes for any of the SR Station’s “Counties of Responsibility” should be re-broadcast by the SR Station:

TOR	Tornado Warning	As well as these National Codes:
FFW	Flash Flood Warning	EAN Emergency Action Notification†
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	NPT National Periodic Test†
TOA	Tornado Watch*	NIC National Information Center†
FFA	Flash Flood Watch*	As well as the State Code:
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning*	CEM, with Location Code 055000
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch*	* = Optional

- SR Stations have also agreed to re-broadcast all DHS and NWEM alerts.

† = On 12/12/23: EAN = National Emergency Message, NPT = Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System, and the NIC code is eliminated.

B.) Overview of Local Primary (LP-1 and LP-2) Station Participation in the EAS

By accepting their EAS Designation, LP-1 and LP-2 Stations have agreed to the following:

- Sources to be monitored: All Mandated and Optional (“Agreed”) sources shown for each LP station in the Monitoring Assignment Tables of this Plan.
- Counties of Responsibility: Consult COVERSHEET of FCC Mapbook at end of this Plan to determine the “Counties of Responsibility” of each LP Station.
- EAS Tests: When originating the RWT test, the Header Code should contain all of the LP Station’s “Counties of Responsibility”.
- EAS Alerts to be re-broadcast: A received EAS alert with the following Event Codes for any of the LP Station’s “Counties of Responsibility” should be re-broadcast by the LP Station:

TOR	Tornado Warning	As well as the State Code:
FFW	Flash Flood Warning	CEM, with Location Code 055000
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	

- LP Stations are strongly encouraged to re-broadcast all DHS and NWEM alerts.

C.) Overview of National Weather Service Participation in the EAS

NWS personnel should issue EAS Weather Alerts via the NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS), and on NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) using the NOAA-SAME/EAS Codes. As of June 2004, NWR began relaying alerts issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In 2021, NWR added NWEM alerts, originated by local Emergency Management officials. Pursuant to the December, 1996 NWS EAS Policy Statement:

Current EAS Participation of NOAA Weather Radio (NWR):

- Each NWR station shall send an EAS Required Weekly Test (RWT) once each week.
- Each NWR station shall send an EAS Required Monthly Test (RMT) containing the Location Codes and per the schedule shown in the “EAS Tests” section of this Plan.

D.) Overview of Emergency Services Participation in the EAS

As of 2012, Emergency Managers who have acquired CAP origination software can send IPAWS CAP messages to area broadcasters and cable operators; authorities must follow the procedures found on FEMA's website:

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

If a county does not yet have IPAWS access, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) can send an IPAWS message on that county's behalf. To initiate this process, contact the WEM Duty Officer.

As of 2021, Emergency Managers can send a local EAS message to area broadcasters, cable operators, and the public via NOAA Weather Radio using a system called NWEM, Non-Weather Emergency Messages, which is accessed through IPAWS. For details, contact your local NWS Office shown in Appendix B of this Plan.

When this IPAWS CAP alerting capability is completed, a County/Local Area EAS Plan could be written to detail the procedures to be followed. It can be modeled after this State Plan, and include references to it. Scripts to use at the County/Local Area level can be found in the "EAS Scripts and Formats" section of this Plan. Your County/Local Area Plan should then be submitted to your LAECC Chair for inclusion in the State EAS Plan.

Appendix C. of this Plan contains a definition for each non-weather EAS Event Code. These definitions were developed by the federal government (NWS), and should be an aid to local officials in selecting proper EAS Event Codes when issuing alerts. The Wisconsin SECC recommends that these definitions now be included in all Local EAS Plans. Local/county authorities should not use Event Codes CEM, RMT, or CAE; generic alerts can use code LAE.

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

VIII. Guidance for All Users in Programming their EAS Decoders in Wisconsin

This section is provided to aid users of the EAS, primarily broadcasters and cable operators, in programming the Event Codes, Originator Codes, Location Codes, and Modes of Operation into their EAS Decoder.

A.) Initial set-up of EAS Encoder

The following parameters must be programmed into a new EAS Encoder:

- Programming your EAS “L-Code” (Also called, “Station Identification” or “Call Sign”) See “Wisconsin L-Code Formats” section of this Plan for guidance.
- Programming your EAS Originator Code See “Wisconsin Originator Codes” section of this Plan for guidance.
- Programming your Location Code (also called, “Local Area” or “Station FIPS Code”) This entry determines the code(s) used in transmitting your Required Weekly Test (RWT), and the code(s) your unit will react to when receiving a Required Monthly Test (RMT). You must program the county of your City of License. You may program additional counties in your “service area”. SR and LP Station have special requirements regarding the Location Codes they send. Those stations should consult the “Guidance for Originators and Users of EAS Alerts” section of this Plan.

B.) Programming for Incoming Alerts

Programming your EAS Decoder to react to incoming alerts involves four elements:

Which Originator Codes and Event Codes you want it to respond to, which Counties those events should apply to, and what Mode of Operation you want it to respond in.

1.) Modes of Operation

All EAS Decoders must be capable of at least Manual and Automatic Operation. Some manufacturers also offer Timed (Countdown) Modes.

Manual Operation: Your EAS gear will only notify you of any incoming EAS Alert that you have programmed it to respond to. Your operator must push a button to cause the Alert to be re-transmitted on your station/cable system.

Automatic Operation: This type of operation would normally be used with a Program Interrupt connection on the EAS Unit. Your on-air audio and/or video is “looped through” the EAS Unit so that the unit can interrupt the audio/video when necessary. In Automatic Operation, when the EAS Decoder receives an EAS Alert that you have programmed it to respond to, it immediately interrupts your programming to transmit the EAS Alert.

Timed Operation: Under this mode of operation, when the EAS Decoder receives an EAS Alert that you have programmed it to respond to, it will begin a preset countdown to automatic interrupt. The idea is for your operator to run the EAS Alert on the air manually at his earliest convenience. If the Alert is not run by the time the preset countdown time expires, the EAS gear will take over and do it for him. The same could apply to a broadcast automation system, where the automation system should insert the received Alert in the next commercial break. If it fails to do that, the EAS gear will interrupt to transmit the Alert at the end of the time-out.

Some EAS gear can be programmed to respond to different Alerts in different Modes, such as responding to all Weather Watches in Manual Mode, and all Weather Warnings in Automatic Mode. The Required Monthly Test (RMT), which must be re-transmitted within 60 minutes of receipt, could be programmed for Timed Mode with a 60-minute countdown. This would give your operator the opportunity to run the RMT himself at a break in his show. However, if he forgets, the EAS gear would then do it for him to prevent you from committing an FCC Violation.

Broadcasters using “Unattended Operation” must run their EAS gear in Automatic Mode.

2.) Event Codes You Must Program into Your EAS Decoder

The FCC requires that broadcasters and cable operators program their EAS Decoders to react to: “EAN” (Emergency Action Notification³) & “NPT” (National Periodic Test³), Location: 000000 “RMT” (Required Monthly Test) containing your County of License code.

“RMT” (Required Monthly Test) containing the Entire State of Wisconsin Code (055000)⁵

“RWT” (Required Weekly Test) containing your County of License code.

3.) Suggested Programming Sequence for Setting Up Your EAS Decoder

The following is an example of the list of events that you might enter into your EAS Decoder:

SEE APPENDIX C. FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENT CODES AND PRIORITIES.

Event	Description	Originator Code	County Code ¹	Operation Mode ²
EAN	National EAS Activation ³	PEP	National Code: 000000	Automatic/Immediate
NPT	National Periodic Test ³	PEP	National Code: 000000	Automatic/Immediate
NIC	National Info. Center ³	PEP	Not Applicable	Manual
RMT	Required Monthly Test	ALL (EAS, WXR, CIV, and PEP ⁴)	Your County of License + (055000) ⁵ Entire State of Wisconsin	Timed Mode / with 60-Minute countdown
RWT	Required Weekly Test	ALL	Your County of License	Manual (for logging)
TOR FFW	Tornado Warning and Flash Flood Warning	WXR	All Counties in your Area	Timed Mode / with 5-Minute countdown
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency	CIV	See Amber Alert Plan ⁶	Automatic
CEM	Civil Emergency Message Use: State EAS Activation, and likely DHS use.	CIV	Your County of License + (055000) ⁵ Entire State of Wisconsin	Automatic
	Likely DHS use, and possible local / NWEM use:			
CDW	Civil Danger Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
ADR	Administrative Message	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
	Possible DHS use, and/or possible local / NWEM use:			
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
EVI	Immediate Evacuation	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
LAE	Local Area Emergency	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
SPW	Shelter In Place Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
FRW	Fire Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
EQW	Earthquake Warning	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic
TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emerg	CIV	All Counties in your Area	Automatic

1 = Some EAS Units give you the option to link certain Event Codes to certain Counties, while other equipment will respond to any match between the list of Event Codes and list of Counties.

2 = These are suggested Operation Modes. Your EAS unit may not be capable of Timed Mode.

3 = On 12/12/23: EAN becomes “National Emergency Message”, NPT becomes “Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System”, PEP becomes “United States Government” and NIC is dropped.

4 = PEP added to RMT on 1/1/20, to accommodate occasional Wisconsin RMT issued by FEMA.

5 = Some EAS units (such as TFT) must be programmed with the 055000 code to respond to a State Test or Alert, other units (such as Sage) will respond to a State Test or Alert without 055000 programmed in. If your unit does not need the 055000, it is best to leave it out so your unit will not respond to errant tests from outside your Local Area.

6 = See “Wisconsin Amber Alert Guidance for Broadcasters and Cable Operators” document on the Wisconsin EAS website at: <http://www.sbe24.org/EAS/>