



TV Station Fined \$8000 For Failure To Provide Emergency Information Visually

*By Gary Timm,
Broadcast Chair, Wisconsin EAS Committee*

Two weeks ago the FCC handed down an \$8000 Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) to WJLA-TV, a Washington, D.C. TV station. The FCC fine was imposed for failing to present visual emergency information in a timely manner. The FCC has begun taking a very hard line on this infraction. Note the following circumstances.

- The fine was a result of 1 complaint from 1 viewer.
- The alert in question was for a weather Watch, not a Warning.
- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) was not a part of this alert.
- Although the FCC stated that the station did visually present most information during this ongoing weather coverage, the station failed to present emergency information visually in just one instance, which is what triggered the fine.
- The FCC said it arrived at the \$8000 fine, because it equated this infraction to the severity of not properly installing or operating EAS equipment.

Probably every TV station in the country is on occasion guilty of not presenting every tidbit of "emergency information" (defined below) in a visual manner. It would seem prudent for all TV stations to:

- 1) Consult with their communications lawyers as to how to best adhere to this rule. The 7-page FCC NAL regarding this case is at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-05-1511A1.pdf .
- 2) Pull out a tape of your most recent weather situation, turn down the sound, and see if you can follow what is going on.

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Next Meeting:

**Tuesday,
June 21, 2005**

**Annual Chapter 24
Picnic**

**Grill Started
at 5:30 PM**

**Brief Meeting
at 7:00 PM**

**at Badger Prairie
Park, Shelter #1
Verona**

**No Park Admission Is
Required**

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DTV SHUT-OFF BILL PROPOSED

By Tom Smith

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Rep. Fred Upton, R-Michigan, Chair of the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee have released a draft of a bill titled Digital Television Act of 2005.

In comments written in the press release, Barton stated that the 85% penetration rule is confusing and uncertain. He noted the need of spectrum for public safety needs and the revenue from auction of the

spectrum. Upton was confident that a bill would be passed "that will deliver something of real value to American consumers as we approach the digital age."

The bill would require all television broadcasters to cease analog transmissions by December 31, 2008. The FCC would be required to make final DTV channel assignments by December 31, 2006 and complete any reconsideration of channel assignments by July 31, 2007. Starting on February 1, 2006, the FCC would be required to submit to Congress status reports every 6 months on international

coordination of DTV channel assignments with Canada and Mexico. The FCC would also be required to educate consumers on the hard deadline for the end of analog TV transmissions, and the options that consumers would have in order to continue to use their analog TVs after the DTV transition. The FCC would have to maintain the deadline for the DTV tuner mandate for 25-inch TV sets and move the deadline for 13-24 inch sets up to July 1, 2006.

Manufacturers would be required to place labels on all analog TVs and

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May Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on May 19, 2005 at Token Creek Productions in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 13 members in attendance, 8 of who were certified and 3 guests.

Outgoing Chairperson Vicki Kipp called the meeting to order at 7:15 Pm. Nomination Committee Chair Steve Paugh reported on the results of the election. Jim Magee was elected Chair, Dennis Baldrige is the new Vice-chair, Tom Smith is the new secretary, and Leslie Franzen was re-elected Treasurer. Vicki Kipp then turned the meeting over to Jim Magee.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved after Tom Weeden moved that the minutes be corrected to reflect that the April meeting was at WMTV, not WISC.

Treasurer Leslie Franzen was not present, but filed a report that the current balance was in the black.

Newsletter Editor Mike Norton reported that the deadline for the newsletter would be Friday, June 3rd at midnight with the folding party at WKOW at 5:30 PM on Wednesday June 8th. Mike also asked for a volunteer to take over the editing of the newsletter.

Steve Paugh gave the program committee report. The June meeting is the picnic, The July meeting would be on Mobile Commercial and Public Safety Radio and the August meeting would be a tour of the Overture Center. There is a \$60 charge for the group that the Chapter will pay.

Jim Hermanson reported on the certification dates and deadlines. The next certification tests will be held from August 12-22 with application deadline of June 10th. The fall certification tests will be from November 11-21 with the application deadline being September 23rd.

Leonard Charles gave the report on the National office noting that the SBE has a new certification classification for AM Directional Antennas and they were working on an 8 VSB Specialist classification. The National office was also working on a plan to allow those with multiple certifications to synchronize their certifications so they would renew on the same date. Participants would be charged for each of their current certifications at the first joint renewal, but would have one fee afterwards.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith gave a report on a meeting held at the Clear Channel studios concerning the current interference issues on the 950 MHz STL band in Madison. Clay Freinwald, Corporate Engineer from Entercom and Cliff Groth of Clear Channel of Madison, organized the meeting. Clay is active with the SBE National on frequency coordination issues and noted that the problems in Madison were not unusual. Since the start of the Prior Coordination Notification Program, there have been problems with stations

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AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

• It may have been Friday the Thirteenth, but it was a lucky day for Morse code—and particularly for veteran contest operators Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. During a May 13 appearance on NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the pair was able to pass a message using good old fashioned Morse code more rapidly than a pair of teenaged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones. The text messaging team consisted of world text-messaging champ Ben Cook of Utah and his friend Jason. Miller said afterward in an internet posting that the ham radio team won fairly handily.

"Ben was just getting ready to start entering the last two words when I was done," he said in response to various questions he's received following the TV appearance. What the viewing public didn't know was that Margelli and Miller had, in Miller's words, "smoked 'em every time" during three pre-program rehearsals. Even so, during the real thing, when Miller raised his hand to signal he'd copied the Morse message successfully, Jason's jaw dropped. None of the players had any idea of the text they'd be sending, Miller noted. The message? "I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance."

To add a little atmosphere to the affair, NBC producers attired Margelli and Miller to look like 19th-century-era Western Union or railroad Morse telegraphers. The costumes came complete with green visors, white shirts, sleeve garters, vests and bow ties. The teenaged SMSers wore T-shirts and jeans.

Commented Margelli to the American Radio Relay League: "I completely agree with my fantastic teammate, Ken Miller. It was a lot of fun, just like ham radio, and the show also delivered an important, if subtle, message about the benefits of the 'basic' communication infrastructure that Amateur Radio provides."

• Broadcasting history buffs mark your calendars! A special commemorative FM broadcast Saturday, June 11, at noon EDT will mark the 70th anniversary of Major Edwin H. Armstrong's first public demonstration of wideband frequency modulation (FM).

The broadcast will emanate from Armstrong's 400-foot-tall experimental tower in Alpine, New Jersey, overlooking the Hudson River. An area landmark that also served several New York City broadcasters in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center, the gigantic structure now is owned by CSC Management Inc, headed by Charles Sackerman Jr. He and Steve Hemphill, WA3ZAE, owner of Solid Electronics Laboratories—a Pennsylvania broadcast equipment manufacturer—have secured a Special Temporary Authority (STA) from the FCC to conduct the FM broadcast on Armstrong's original frequency of 42.8 MHz at a power of 250 W ERP. They'll use the experimental/STA call sign WA2XMN, reminiscent of Armstrong's W2XMN call sign.

The program itself will consist of David Ossman's dramatic production of "Empire of the Air," based on the book by Tom Lewis. They also plan to air excerpts from a 1941 test broadcast between member stations of the original New England Yankee Network, featuring actual voice recordings of Armstrong, Yankee Network Chief Engineer Paul deMars and others. They'll also rebroadcast the final signoff of Armstrong's pioneer FM station W2XMN/KE2XCC. The station went silent February 25, 1954, following Armstrong's death by suicide.

The broadcast will be simulcast via WFDU(FM) 89.1 MHz, which also will provide a streaming webcast <<http://alpha.fdu.edu/wfdu/wdfum/index2.html>>. The entire program will be rebroadcast on the Web at 7 PM EDT on June 14 and 16. A recording of the complete broadcast will be available for download at <<http://www.cscmgt.com/>>. Additional information about the commemorative broadcast and the Alpine tower site is available on the CSC Management Web site <<http://www.cscmgt.com/index.html>>.

(Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League web site)



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TV Station Fined \$8000 (continued from page 1)

The specifics of the information in the 7-page NAL:

This infraction occurred on May 25, 2004. The FCC studied the case for a year. The fine was handed down on May 25, 2005.

Specifically, during weather coverage, viewers in a specific area were advised to take cover in their homes, go to the basement or an interior room, and cover themselves with blankets or quilts. This aural message was broadcast at 6:50PM. A visual presentation was not given until 9:22PM, over 2 ½ hours later.

The station is accused of "willfully or repeatedly violating section 79.2(b)(1)(i) of the Commission's rules".

Specifically, the station "failed, in a timely manner, to make accessible to persons with hearing disabilities emergency information that it provided aurally during a thunderstorm/tornado watch". [Yes, there is no such event.]

The NAL states, "Section 79.2(b)(1)(i) requires that video programming distributors providing emergency

information (defined below) in the audio portion of programming must provide persons with hearing disabilities with the same access to such information that distributors provide to listeners, either through a method of closed captioning or by using another method of visual presentation. The Commission's rules do not require closed captioning, but allow for other methods of visual presentation, including, but not limited to, open captioning, crawls, or scrolls."

Regarding a definition of "emergency information", and addressing the allowed delay of visual presentation, the NAL stated, "Further, it is clear from the Commission's definition of emergency information, i.e., information about a 'current' emergency that provides critical details concerning 'how to respond to the emergency,' that the Commission required video programming distributors to display emergency information in a timely manner so that viewers can respond to a current emergency before becoming endangered."

The NAL continues, "if visual notification is delayed, it should not be

unreasonably delayed so that a hearing impaired person would not have time to take reasonable and constructive precautions with regard to the emergency."

Paragraph 5 of the NAL goes more into detail on defining "emergency information", as well as giving examples of emergencies covered (from tornadoes and floods, to weather watches and warnings, to school closings and changes in school bus schedules) and "critical details" that the rule applies to (such as areas that will be affected by the emergency and the way to take shelter in one's home). Basically, if you can't turn the sound down on your TV and still follow all the details of what is going on, you most likely have a problem.

All TV stations are advised to review their on-air procedures.

Again, this fine was based on one "slip up", on a night where the FCC admitted that "most" information was presented visually as well as aurally.

(Gary Timm is the Broadcast Chair for the Wisconsin EAS Committee.)

May Meeting Minutes (continued from page 2)

getting notified and confusion about the role of the SBE Coordination Program. The group plans on meeting again to update the current databases.

Leonard Charles reported on the Program for the Summer WBA Engineering Meeting on June 15th.

In New business, Chair Jim Magee reported that Lonnie Cooks has stepped down as Special Events Coordinator and that the position is open. Radio

Safety International has given the Chapter a free RF Safety Certification Class, which will be given as a prize at the picnic. In old business, there was a reminder that the newsletter and certification positions are open.

John Salzwedel of Token Creek Productions along with Brandon Clark and Evan Zeimann then gave tours of their new 53-foot remote truck and their older 30-foot remote truck.

Submitted by Tom Smith, Secretary

DTV STATIONS ON THE AIR

As of June 7th, there are 1497 DTV stations in 211 markets providing programming. Over 99.98% of all US homes are in markets with at least one DTV signal on the air. In Wisconsin there are 41 DTV stations currently on air. The National Association of Broadcasters maintains a list of DTV stations that are in operation. This can be found at the NAB web site (www.nab.org).

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DTV SHUT-OFF BILL PROPOSED (continued from page 1)

retailers would have to place signs by all displays of analog sets informing consumers that the TVs would need a DTV receiver, digital to analog converter, or a multichannel service to operate after December 31, 2008.

Cable systems would be required to carry the primary DTV video must-carry signal in the format broadcast, and in addition may convert the digital signal to analog anywhere from the headend to the subscribers premises. Any analog conversion must be done to all must-carry signals.

On May 26th, the House Telecommunications Subcommittee held a hearing on the proposed bill. The release from the Committee noted support from the cable, retail, and

consumer electronics industry as well as a representative of a 911 center. A Reuters story on the hearing posted on the Washington Post website stated that the focus of the hearing concerned subsidies for low-income households to purchase converters. Republicans were split on the issue, with Democrats supporting some kind of subsidies. It will be several weeks before the committee releases the text of the hearing.

A number of public interest groups, consumer groups, labor unions, and broadcast network affiliate groups have formed a group in opposition to the December 31, 2008 analog TV shutdown. The group is called Coalition for a Smart Digital TV Transition and can be found at

www.smartdigitaltvtransition.com.

Finally, the European Union is also considering an accelerated analog TV shutdown date. Half the nations in the European Union would shutdown by the beginning of 2010 and the rest would shutdown by the beginning of 2012. In their release, the EU stated that the USA planned on a December 31, 2008 shutdown based on a speech by former FCC Chairman Michael Powell. They also noted that Korea planned the analog shutdown for the end of 2010 and Japan by 2011.

From *Thomas.gov*, www.washingtonpost.com, *TV Technology's Doug Lung RF Report* (www.tvtechnology.com/dlrf) and *European Union* (Europe.eu.int).

SBE's Short Circuits – June 2005

By *John L. Poray, CAE*
SBE Executive Director

8-VSB TO BE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has announced that the second topic in a series of specialist certifications will be 8-VSB. 8-VSB was chosen because of the ongoing progress in digital television and the importance of identifying qualified broadcast engineers who are critical to its implementation.

David Carr, CPBE, is leading a subcommittee to create this Specialist Certification. Carr is a former chairman of the SBE National Certification Committee. He is also the director of engineering for Telemundo Arizona and has been involved with the group's transition to digital transmission. He previously oversaw the transition to

digital at KHOU-TV in Houston, which was the first all-digital station in the country.

The SBE National Certification Committee expects to have this level of Certification ready by mid-October, when SBE will hold its annual National Meeting in Dallas, Texas. The first SBE Specialist Certification exams were administered during NAB2005 on the topic of maintaining AM directional.

UPCOMING SBE REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

June 23, Northern New England Broadcasters' Show
Center of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH

August 10-12, Nebraska Broadcasters Assn. Conv. & SBE Chapter 74 Engineering Sessions
Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Neb.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED JUNE 6

The annual SBE Membership Drive concluded on May 31. The prize drawing will be held during the SBE national Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, June 4 in Denver. Winners will be notified beginning Monday, June 6.

SBE NATIONAL MEETING SET FOR TEXAS

The 2005 National Meeting of the Society of Broadcast Engineers will be held October 19-20 in Grapevine, Texas. Grapevine is just north of DFW International Airport in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

The National Meeting includes the fall meeting of the Board of Directors, the annual Fellows Breakfast, Annual (continued on page 6)




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FCC CLARIFIES DTV MEASUREMENTS

By Tom Smith

The Office of Engineering and Technology released a notice that clarifies the methods of measuring the emission mask of a DTV transmitter. They gave a number of methods depending on the type of spectrum analyzer one is using. These methods can be used until the IEEE develops more detail methods. The OET released this notice on May 10th and it can be found on the OET web page.

(From www.fcc.gov)

Nextel 2 GHz Transition Information

Nextel has launched a web site to keep broadcasters informed about the 2GHZ BAS relocation plan. The kickoff for the Green Bay market [according to materials distributed at the NAB convention but not on the web site yet] was June 5th.

Other nearby markets kickoff meetings have already occurred:
 Chicago - April 5th
 Milwaukee - May 10th

For more info visit the web site at www.2ghzrelocation.com

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

Communication Technologies, Inc has the following items that have been deemed surplus. To make an offer or for more information, please contact Doug Gall at (608) 831-4636 or (800) 818-1511, or on the web at cti@ctiinfo.com.

- 3.8 Meter Comtech Satellite Antenna- Parabolic 3-piece fiberglass, motorized dual axis polar mount, 2-port motorized C/Ku feedhorn with LNB's and adjustable spars. Currently installed at CTI, removal and transport to be arranged

- Hewlett-Packard 5342A CW Microwave Frequency Counter- 18 GHz with amplitude measurement

- B&K (Dynascan) 1045 Telephone Product Tester- Decodes DTMF, generates ringing voltage, verifies phone cables

- Leader Electronics Corp LVM-185A- 2-CH AC voltmeter, 20Hz-200KHz, -60 to +50 dBm (1 mV to 300 V), dual meter pointers

- Heathkit IG-1275- Lin/Log audio frequency sweep generator

- Heathkit IM-5258- Audio distortion analyzer, auto-nulling

- Rack- Open frame, 77" high, standard 19", large footprint base has caster mounting provisions, includes some cantilever shelves

SBE's Short Circuits – June 2005 (continued)

Membership Meeting and the National Awards Reception and Dinner. The National Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Broadcast Engineering Expo (BEE) sponsored by SBE Chapter 67 of North Texas. The BEE will include an Ennes Workshop on October 19 and trade show on the evening of the 19th and all day the 20th. Technical presentations will also be held on the trade show floor on the 20th. More information about the BEE is available at the chapter 67 web site, www.sbe67.org.

SBE Toolbox will allow the user to import records used in SBE's previous DOS-based software. It automatically calculates distance and bearing from latitude and longitude, has automatic e-mail and letter writing features and wireless mic and IFB tables built in. SBE Toolbox can be used for regular day-to-day local coordination as well as event coordination purposes. Any qualified frequency coordinator may request a copy by contacting the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000.


SBE TOOLBOX SOFTWARE NOW AVAILABLE

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has developed a new software tool for use by local, regional and event frequency coordinators. SBE Toolbox© will be provided free of charge to SBE and affiliated frequency coordinators.

CERTIFICATION EXAM SESSION DATES FOR 2005

The SBE Certification Committee has established exam dates for 2005. For more information about SBE Certification, see your Chapter Certification Chair or contact Linda Baun, Certification Director at the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000 or lbaun@sbe.org.

The *Chapter 24 Newsletter* is published monthly by SBE Chapter 24 Inc., Madison, WI. Could you be the next newsletter editor? Chapter 24 is seeking a volunteer to become the next editor of the award winning Chapter 24 newsletter. Good PC skills are important and experience with PageMaker for Windows a plus. Please contact the Chapter Chair for more information.



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WBA/SBE Summer Engineering Workshop Scheduled

By Leonard Charles

The 2005 WBA/SBE Summer Engineering Workshop will be held on Wednesday June 15th at the Heidl House Resort in Green Lake. The theme this year is *DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY*. Here is the agenda of presentations for the day:

- 8:30am On Site Registration, Coffee and Rolls provided
- 9:00 - 9:45am Emergency Live Closed Captioning (including Demo)
Laura Deckert, Wisconsin Captioning, LLC
- 9:45 - 10:30am Readiness in the Nuclear Power Industry
Todd Gemskie, Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant
- 10:30 - 10:45am Break
- 10:45 - 11:00am New Innovations in Wisconsin Alerting (Panel Discussion)
Gary Timm - Chair, Wisconsin Emergency Communications Committee
Alan Wholferd - Communications Director, Wisconsin Emergency Management
Rusty Kapela - Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service
- Noon - 1:30pm Lunch
- 1:30 - 2:15pm US Postal Service Disaster Planning
JoAnne Blackburn - Public Affairs and Communications, Lakeland District, US Postal Service
Jeff Huntley - Emergency Manager, Lakeland District, US Postal Service
- 2:15 - 3:00pm Media Security and Reliability Council (MSRC)
Dean Maytag - Director of Broadcast Operations, WISN TV, Milwaukee
- 3:00 - 4:00pm Reaction and Recovery, the Play by Play of a Real Life Incident
Ron Adair - Director of Engineering, KTNV TV, Las Vegas
- 4:00pm Exhibit Reception

The registration fee has been held to the low price of \$35 for the day which includes lunch, reception, and the evening Dinner. The two day registration fee is \$50 which includes the second day of Management seminars. For more details, visit www.wi-broadcasters.org and click on *Events*.

To pre-register, contact the WBA by May 27th at (608) 255.2600 or toll free at 800.236.1922. Registration is also possible at wi-broadcasters.org.

CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS:

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Thanks to WISC-TV for
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Thanks to WKOW-TV for
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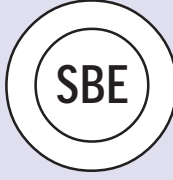
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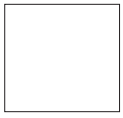


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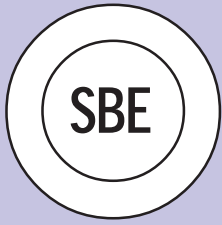


FIRST CLASS MAIL

Newsletter edited on Pagemaker 7.0 by: Mike Norton
Contributors this month: Leonard Charles, Tom Smith, Gary Timm, and Tom Weeden.
Thanks to Leonard Charles for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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JUNE MEETING and PROGRAM



Society of Broadcast Engineers CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Annual Chapter 24 Picnic

The Chapter will supply burgers and brats, condiments, buns, plates, cups, and utensils. The grill will be started at 5:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass, an alternate entrée if desired and your preferred beverage (we have an alcohol permit).

We will have a drawing for a Door Prize donated by Radio Safety International to attend an RF Safety Class to be held in Madison on July 22.

Please sign-up on the chapter web site (<http://www.sbe24.org>).



There is a playground for the kids and we will have a sound system for the evening's entertainment. Bring your favorite CD to share. Come for the food and company, stay for the entertainment!

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Badger Prairie Park, Shelter #1
Verona, Wisconsin
No park admission is required.
There will be a brief business meeting about 7 PM.

Visitors and guests are welcome at all of our SBE meetings!

2005 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Wednesday	July 20, 2005	Public & Safety Radio Overview
Thursday	August 18, 2005	Overture Center Technical Tour
Tuesday	September 13, 2005	Camera Fiber Connections

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