Appendix II

State Survey Results – Summary

NOTE: There were 52 responses from 50 states.[5]

1. What governmental entity is primarily responsible for implementing the plan?

- OVERALL: Most states said that the State Office of Emergency Management or a similar body was the responsible government entity for implementing the plan.
- The following states said that the local broadcasters, State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) chair people or the local FCC offices were the responsible parties:
    i. Colorado
    ii. Oregon
- The Office of The Governor also was involved in two states.
    i. South Dakota
    ii. California
- Louisiana said that "there is no governmental entity primarily responsible." They said the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness is "semi-involved."

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

- The answers to this question varied greatly. Some states said messages were disseminated "immediately," while others said 15 minutes.
- Most state chairpersons said that they did not keep data on this, but stated that it's "definitely within FCC guidelines."
- It appears there are not enough state activations to generalize. Overall, respondents provided reasonable approximations.
- Most activations are on the local/regional level.
- NOTABLE QUOTE:

    "Statewide: In a test on the statewide level, the message never made it more than 50-70 miles from Albany. Encoders were set incorrectly, control room not manned, etc. Varies between sometimes and never. Broadcasters just weren't passing the message along. Tests on the local level don't indicate success on the state level. In theory there is a state-wide system, but in reality there is not." *New York SECC*

[5] Two separate responses were received from Louisiana and Iowa.

3. What additional use is made of EAS? Amber? NWS? Other uses?

- All states surveyed indicated that the NWS was an additional use of EAS.
- Most states were in the early stages of implementing the Amber Alert system. They were either using the system or in the final stages of implementation.
- California is utilizing Emergency Digital Information System (EDIS) – a kind of advanced EAS system that allows graphics and other text messages to be received through personal computers and other devices.

> "EDIS can be used for low-priority news and information as well as state information. State divided into 14 EDIS zones so that the county can target just a certain area. Meant to discourage over-information to the public. Beauty of EDIS is that it goes everywhere and then turns around with redundancy. Sent out by third party providers. EDIS can be sent out to pagers, faxes, computers, PCs, any wireless device that uses an e-mail address. People can go to the website to get the message. Third-party providers send out these messages - like incident.com.. We are using Amber. First used in August of 2002. All EAS activations have rendered a 100% return rate. NWS uses EAS also." *California*

4. What's the method of delivery? (How are EAS messages disseminated?)

- Primary method of delivery is still the traditional over-the-air broadcast signal through the "daisy chain."
- <u>TYPICAL RESPONSE:</u>

> "The 'daisy chain' has been and still is the way. I have just recently added the Louisiana Public Broadcast Satellite (Ku band) System and Network as another method to get the State EAS Network to all Local Areas of the state. It now is a parallel system to the "daisy chain." *Louisiana*

- Internet back-up: Utah
- Many states are using microwave systems as well, including:
  i. California
  ii. Connecticut
  iii. Washington
  iv. South Dakota
  v. New Hampshire
- States that use a state-relay network include:
  i. Washington
  ii. Idaho
  iii. Illinois
- States that use a public radio networks include:
  i. Alaska
  ii. Wisconsin
  iii. Florida
  iv. Nebraska
  v. Iowa- Will soon start using a state *fiber optic system* to relay messages.
- The following states use satellite to some extent in disseminating their message.

i. Alaska
ii. Arkansas
iii. California
iv. Florida
v. Louisiana
vi. Pennsylvania
vii. Minnesota

- California provides a good example of an innovative state using a variety of techniques to disseminate EAS messages.

> "Two different ways: Terrestrial microwave and digital text-based messaging through satellite. Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) is the ultimate goal. Satellite and web-based technologies allow for audio and graphical images to be sent out. Image and audio files available now through EDIS. Utilize emergency digital information service. All 30 LP1s have receiver for the EDIS. These were provided by the state. Satellite system called OASIS utilized. Operated by the State of California. All 58 counties have uplink and downlink capability. Been in place since 1992. Small counties may not have EAS encoding equipment. They would call there LP1 or NWS and go through the EAS procedures according to the local EAS Plan. They have the capability of using text messaging. Utilize a methodology of redundancy. This is the web of Emergency Public Information (EPI)."

5. How often has EAS been activated in your state?

- No state indicated that they kept any records of this data.
- Most responses were "pure guesses."
- Overall, fewer than 5 statewide activations per state, per year were typical.
- On the local level, states said there were multiple activations, especially in years where there is a lot of severe weather.
- <u>TYPICAL QUOTE:</u>

> "In 2002, we at the State Warning Point are aware of more than 200 activations statewide. These were mostly weather events affecting local areas only and there may be many more that we are not aware of here in Tallahassee. Non-weather events totaled about 30 and included 20 AMBER Alerts plus some major road closing notices, boil water notices or 911 system difficulties. Only four of the AMBER Alerts were done on a state wide basis, all of the other activations were of a local, 1 or 2 Operational Area coverage." *Florida SECC.*

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

- There were 99 local plans that could be confirmed. Some of the respondents said that some were developed, but could not give any firm numbers.
- The following have no local plans developed:
    i. Connecticut
    ii. Delaware
    iii. Mississippi
    iv. New Hampshire
    v. New York
    vi. Oregon
- Iowa had only two out of the 12 local area plans developed
- Only eight out of 18 plans developed in Virginia
- Kentucky didn't know how many were developed
- NOTE: Many states had local plans that were not approved by the FCC. In Texas, eight local plans have been developed out of 20 media markets.
- NOTABLE QUOTE:

    "NONE! My chair people have little interest in battling the politics of Local Area Office of Emergency Preparedness, other political figures, and all the hassle. Little interest has been shown. I sometimes feel like I am a one man show.....but someone has to do it and it may as well be me...And as the rule states in lieu of a Local Area Plan the State Plan is it. I am also stuck with creating and posting the RMT schedule each December. I am only a volunteer!" *Louisiana SECC*

7. What are some problems with the system?

- This question elicited the most responses. State chairpersons responded to this question in paragraphs rather than sentences.
- It would be good to read the "problems" section for each state. There were so many varied responses to this question that it is impossible to generalize. Many of the problems were specific to the state that replied to the survey.
- Many states said the system is too complicated and difficult to use during a real emergency. Also, broadcasters said the NWS used this system "too much." Many were upset with the daisy chain system in place in their state and said that they did not feel comfortable that a message could get to the entire state if a real emergency arose.
- The lack of funding and the need for new encoding equipment at the local level was a concern as well.

- NOTABLE QUOTES:

  "No background channels assigned for EAS-only use. Funding. Funding. Funding..... Currently all non-federal EAS alerting is voluntary, this is a matter that continues to distress the credibility of the entire EAS. Volunteers on all committees. It is getting very hard to find dedicated people to participate with system implementation. System is only based on old analog technology. As broadcasters and cable switch to a digital service, EAS is not easily deployed in this environment. Digitally implementing EAS has not been defined technically (nor required?). The FCC needs to take the lead to direct how the media should provide EAS in this digital age." *Minnesota SECC*

  "Where do I begin.....Delivery, stupidity, false test, lack of training new people, things like commercials inadvertently included in the RMTs from the State Originating FM, etc., not to mention equipment failures in the "Daisy Chain".... with all of this causing the Broadcaster to be reluctant to participate. There has even been some ego "Exclusive Amber station pretenses" PSAs broadcast, which has made other Broadcasters angry. But I am the "whipping" post as they say and do what I can to take the licks... There are other problems, but "turf" wars, the worst in whatever flavor you could imagine exist in Louisiana. One silly battle was with the Amber Plan in that they wanted no adjoining states to be able to activate the Louisiana Statewide Amber Alert System, which in my opinion is practicing political isolationism. Easy for a committee of egos to forget the reason for the Plan! The Justice Department has fallen short with State "Glue" and "universal Plan" in the Federal Amber Alert System. They need to be more than a state sampling and interviewing system and should get to work and mandate the important issues which are important in saving lives! They could develop a "Homeland Security Alert System Plan" or whatever you want to call it...bottom line is that all states need to be on the same page. We are still the UNITED States aren't we?" *Louisiana SECC*

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which?

- Most states said they could monitor a PEP station.
- However, there were a several states where this was not currently possible, including:
  i. Iowa
  ii. Mississippi
  iii. Nebraska
  iv. Oregon
  v. New Hampshire
- Many states noted they can receive a signal, but that it is a very poor quality.

- NOTABLE QUOTE:

  "We can not receive PEP stations and were informed by FEMA that we were in the 5% of the country which does not have enough population to justify the expense of a PEP installation. We do have an input from that national PEP audio channel through a path from the National Public Radio Network cue channel." *Nebraska*

9. If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that <u>in turn</u> monitors a PEP station?[6]

- Most respondents indicated that they have attempted to use this system, but expressed serious concerns about long-term viability.
- The following states said they could not utilize this method:
  i. Oklahoma
  ii. Nebraska
  iii. Oregon
  iv. Mississippi

<u>TYPICAL QUOTE:</u>

"No. We are currently working on having the LP-1. On the Mississippi Gulf Coast monitor the PEP station, but as of now we don't have a way to get this entry point to Jackson." *Mississippi*

- Reception during the nighttime hours was problematic for several states, including:
  i. Missouri
  ii. Utah

<u>NOTABLE QUOTES:</u>

"Yes, in Connecticut our primary entry stations can monitor another station that can monitor a PEP station but this is going back to the old daisy chain system. Bad policy. Until the PEP system in on a national FM network like NPR, it's a badly flawed plan." *Connecticut*

"We have tried that in the past it does not work well . You are relying on the other station to do its part. All well and good until it is sold then all agreements have to be reworked." *Iowa #2*

[6] STATES QUERIED: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Michigan, Nebraska, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

STATES REPONDED: Connecticut, Iowa, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah.

NO REPLY: Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana and New York.