

2008 EAS State Survey

Executive Summary

With all the focus on Homeland Security, the Emergency Alert System has drawn increased concern with the spotlight now on long overdue improvements promised during the past four years. An initial survey, conducted in 2003, demonstrated serious problems in the efficacy of the nation's only alert and warning system. Although radio and television stations across the nation are equipped to broadcast warnings almost instantaneously, the 2003 report documented serious problems in the plan to deliver a national emergency message from the President to the stations and ultimately to much of the public. The new survey - conducted late in 2007 and compiled early in 2008 – shows great strides have been made in the method of delivering EAS messages with many states securing enhanced dissemination options.

The survey responses demonstrate the number of local activations far exceed state activations. (There has never been a national activation.) Most states did not keep specific data on response time. In addition, most states are still struggling to develop local plans and several states still lack a clear delineation of governmental responsibility for emergency communications. The question of "who is in charge?" remains unanswered in many areas, as well as the role of the state emergency management agency.

Problems persist with regard to funding and training, especially with the new CAP rules pending. A few states contribute funds to support a satellite system or provide a government delivery system for EAS messages but this is definitely not the general situation. Funding is a critical need. Another key issue is how to send alerts to audiences with special needs such as the blind and/or deaf and how to meet the needs of non-English speaking audiences.

The chairs of the State Emergency Communications Committees and officials of State Emergency Management Agencies were asked to report on how EAS messages are handled in their states and what problems they face. All 50 states participated in the 2003 survey. In the most recent report, Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota and West Virginia did not participate.

Overview of Responses to Questions

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

- Most states said that the State Office of Emergency Management, Homeland Security office, Governor's Office of Emergency Services or a similar entity was the responsible government entity for implementing the plan. Several State Broadcasters Associations and SECC's indicated they work with these agencies to implement plan.

- The following states said that the local broadcasters, State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) chairs or the local FCC offices were the responsible parties:
 - i. Colorado
 - ii. Kentucky
 - iii. Oklahoma
 - iv. Oregon
- Hawaii – State Civil Defense for statewide plan; County governments for local portion
- Louisiana said volunteers handle responsibility and there has not been a need for any governmental entity to take charge.
- Nevada said there is no “governmental entity” responsible. NBA works closely with various government agencies to make them aware EAS is available and can be used for the public warning portion of their own emergency and disaster planning.
- New Mexico said no governmental entity has come forward to take responsibility. NMBA had meetings with DPS and also DHS before it was an official State agency. DHS becoming official has changed the landscape, requiring NMBA to almost start over.
- Tennessee Association of Broadcasters is solely responsible for implementing and maintaining Tennessee’s plan. The association continues to ask for help from the State’s Emergency Management Office. The association has purchased an EAS encoder/decoder for the government office but they will not place their operations within the EAS.
- The Texas Association of Broadcasters has been solely responsible for EAS since 1996 but the Texas - Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management has indicated it intends to take responsibility sometime in 2008.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

- Answers to this question varied greatly. Some states said messages were disseminated “immediately or within minutes.” while others said 15-30 minutes. Individual station participation and relay response times vary, depending on program content and management directives.
- Several states responded “well within guidelines.”
- California – State: basically within minutes using both the Statewide Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS) and the local origination points. Text messages are transmitted via EDIS and currently experiments are underway to use EDIS for electronic translation. Local: Some counties have EAS terminals and use a local government frequency. They can become broadcasters when they activate the EAS system. If counties lack terminals, they have to call local radio station. Everyone has ability to send EDIS text-messaging. All counties, even the smallest, have this capability. Dissemination time depends on the size and capability of the local governments. Within minutes, however.
- Indiana - Local Primary stations can issue immediate local EAS Activations and can quickly relay Local NWS activations. State EAS Activations travel through FM Relay network, and can be delayed several minutes to an hour through this chain as the message works its way outward.

- New York – Governor has not used statewide EAS yet. Tests show the possibility of immediate turn around. Although Mayor has yet to use New York City EAS, it is tested weekly.

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

- Most states surveyed indicated that weather and Amber were the primary uses of EAS. Several states indicated EAS also could be utilized for state and local emergencies, such as inclement weather, nuclear power plants events and civil emergencies.
- Hawaii – Amber and NWS are the only uses – no other use is allowed besides that and Civil Defense.
- Illinois – The SECC, Illinois Broadcasters Association (IBA), IEMA, and Illinois State Police (IPS) worked on a joint effort to create an Amber Alert Plan for Illinois.

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

- Primary methods of delivery include: over-the-air relay, public television or radio systems, satellite uplink, microwave, cable, NWS, UHF-type radio transmissions, dial-up phone patches, teletype or wireless links. Many stations use a secondary or back up method of transmission.
- Other methods include: The Emergency Managers Network 'EMnet', NOAA weather radio station, legacy activation systems to their LP stations, relay stations via two-way radio or telephone, fiber paths or fax.
- Hawaii – If it's a statewide emergency, State CD generates the first EAS message, then the counties take over (since evacuation plans etc are specific to the county) All EAS messages are sent by the encoder.
- Iowa - Radio only all messages are relayed from station to station both AM and FM. We are currently working with the state to use the state wide fiber optic system to act as a second path for all EAS messages. All LP-1 and LP-2 stations will monitor the system
- California - The EDIS system is currently under going testing for a far better CAP based system with considerably more flexibility. Also technical upgrades to the OASIS satellite system. California is utilizing Emergency Digital Information System (EDIS) – “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.”
- Illinois – The National weather service maintains about 28 base station networks for NOAA Weather transmitters in Illinois which are independent of IEMA. Stations are encouraged, in the state plan, to monitor a NWS receiver. IEMA does not duplicate the weather alerts performed by NWS. Each is a stand-alone function and independent of each other.

The SECC, Illinois Broadcasters Association (IBA), IEMA, and Illinois State Police (IPS) worked on a joint effort to create an Amber Alert Plan for Illinois. Use the NOAA Wx radio path solves the clearance problem by not requiring the LP1/2/3 to clear an Amber Alert. The NWS bypasses the LP stations with the alert being transmitted over the National Weather Service VHF weather radio network. With the NWS path, each station, by the direct link (no relay) can decide how they want to respond to an Amber Alert. The Amber Alert also alerts general public who monitor with a SAME equipped weather radio receiver. NWS is fully hardware and software equipped to perform the CAE alert. We have a MOU in our state plan outlining the Amber Alert process.

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

- Although most states indicated they do not keep records of this data, most said they utilize EAS for RMT's, weather or Amber alerts
- On the local level, states said there were multiple activations, especially during inclement weather seasons.
- NM - Statewide activations number approximately between 1 and 12 annually. The new Missing and Endangered Person Advisory -- newly implemented in July, 2007 -- has resulted in a larger than average number of activations. Individual station activations due to weather can be frequent, and probably reach well into the hundreds on an annual basis.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

- There were 247 local plans that could be confirmed. Several states said some were developed, but could not give any firm numbers.
- The following states have no local plans developed:
 - i. Arkansas
 - ii. Connecticut
 - iii. Louisiana
 - iv. Maine
 - v. Massachusetts
 - vi. Mississippi
 - vii. New Hampshire
 - viii. New Jersey
 - ix. New Mexico
 - x. North Carolina
 - xi. Puerto Rico
- Iowa – Only a few, I have no firm data on that - we do not require or ask that the plans be sent to the S.E.C.C.
- Maine – Frankly, we discourage the idea of local plans. Maine is a relatively small state, and we prefer to have the "filter" of Emergency Management/State Police oversight for activations, rather than giving direct access to 400+ local emergency managers.
- Massachusetts – I am not aware of any "local" EAS plans. The state plan does not provide for local plans. The state's AMBER plan requires all AMBER activations to clear through the State Police headquarters. An attempt by one city

to develop their own plan resulted in a false activation on the day the local plan was announced.

7. What are some problems with the system?

- This question elicited detailed responses, with some states citing issues specific to the state responding to the survey.
- The “problems” section for each state should be reviewed; however, funding, training and update of equipment to handle new CAP codes seem to top the list.
- Change of personnel in both emergency management and broadcast operations.
- 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.

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

- Most states said they could monitor a Primary Entry Point station, although some states do not have PEP stations actually located in their state. Across the country 34 PEP stations are hardwired to the White House Communications System for the President to talk to the nation in an emergency. Recent developments also include the creation of additional PEP stations.
- Several states indicated they currently do or plan to monitor the National Public Radio or FEMA satellite or provide a satellite backbone. (NPR was recently added to the PEP network.)
- Many states noted they can receive a signal; however, some states said the signal is of poor quality or may only be reliable during daytime hours.
- Some states indicated certain areas of the state are able to receive the PEP signal, but others (more desolate or mountainous) are not able to do so
- Twelve states indicated they monitor NPR as a backup or due to poor signal quality from the PEP station
- The following states cannot monitor a PEP station, so they would not receive a national emergency alert directly:
 - i. Arizona
 - ii. Connecticut
 - iii. Iowa
 - iv. Michigan
 - v. Mississippi
 - vi. Nebraska
 - vii. Oklahoma
 - viii. Oregon
 - ix. Puerto Rico
 - x. Wisconsin
 - xi. Wyoming
- Arkansas - Our nearest PEP contacts for national alerts are AM radio stations in Kansas City and New Orleans. When asked why all networks (ABC,CBS,NBC,FOX,PBS) were not getting satellite delivered EAS national alert

information, we were told something about a disagreement between the FCC and the Military Office at the White House, so the bottom line was to leave the old cold war plan in place using AM radio. (Wonderful example of 21st century thinking)

- Michigan – No! This has been a major and very serious flaw and it has brought to the attention of FEMA many times, and is, in fact, in on going discussions right now. None of the supposedly 4 available P.E.P. stations can be heard in Michigan day and night. Michigan got some partial funding to equip a State Primary station back in 1988, but has seen no funding for this purpose since. We continue to hope to receive some funding provide a PEP for Michigan. To date, it has not happened. We have repeatedly submitted requests.

We received a communication from Mr. Ed Buikema, Director of FEMA Region VI, stating, "that the process is still ongoing."

9. Is redundancy built into your state's system and, if so, how?

- Most respondents indicated that they do have redundancy through cross monitoring, land lines, satellite, microwave, public television, NWS, NOAA or EMnet.
- Several stations utilize law enforcement, state radio communications systems, national guard systems, state fiber network or terrestrial links
- The following states said they did not have redundancy built into their system:
 - i. Arkansas
 - ii. Colorado
 - iii. Missouri
 - iv. New Mexico
 - v. South Dakota
- Illinois – The Illinois Terrorist Task Force obtained federal grant money to purchase the EMnet system. Terminals are placed in all 102 counties Emergency Management offices, E911 centers including Chicago E911 EOC, IMEA EOC and about 11 LP1 stations. Problem is ownership does not mean it operational. For the most part it appears the EMnet sees moderate use and at the IEMA EOC terminal is on the side line and for the most part ignored. At the Local Primary stations it has been deployed but is not functional. System needs training for operation and a mission statement. To make EMnet work someone needs to take "Command Authority" over the system in the state.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

- This question elicited various responses, but most indicated ENDEC, satellite, microwave, Internet, public television or radio (DEAS or datacasting) and phone.
- Some states said low band radio, radio link, state CEM channel, state fiber network or state police trunk radio system
- Costs varied from those few states that provided this information; many stations provided technical information, but no cost details
- Several states said costs were covered by existing networks purchased through state agencies or donated (i.e. AT&T donated telephone lines, state police donated microwave);
- A couple state broadcasters associations provided partial funding for equipment, such as encoders/decoders

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Contact information varies from state to state.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

- Most states indicated their plans could be accessed on the Internet either through the FCC's website, SBE's website or their state broadcast association's website
- A number of states said their plans were available through their state's emergency management website
- Several states pointed out their plans were not available on the Internet due to security issues or privacy reasons (personal contact information)

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

- Most states indicated they do not have special provisions for non English speaking audiences
- The majority of states that did provide non English alerts did so in Spanish – most of these states were located in areas with large concentrations of Spanish speaking audiences
- Hawaii - Live translation in 10 languages is available.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

- Nearly all states indicated they do not have special accommodations for people with disabilities other than the FCC requirements, i.e. television station – closed caption crawl for the deaf; radio for the blind
- Texas makes live translations of emergency alerts available in sign language for the deaf and hearing impaired.
- Connecticut - The current plan does not have provisions for persons with disabilities, however, I am the president of the Connecticut Radio Information System which is the radio reading service for the blind and print handicapped and we have installed an ENDEC to provide emergency information to that audience. While none of this is included in the plan, the board of CRIS is working with the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee to institute procedures by which that audience can be reached in emergency.
- Maine - No, none at this time, though the Maine Emergency Management Agency has done extensive work on the disability issue, and our state provides subsidies for alerting devices for the hearing-impaired.
- New Jersey - Except for areas around nuclear power plants we do not have any special accommodations for people with disabilities. We are however working to change this.
- Pennsylvania - We adhere to the FCC EAS Rules for audible and visual presentations of all warnings. Pennsylvania EAS activations can be received via cell phone text, email and other public re-distribution methods.

Alabama

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

The Alabama Emergency Communications Committee and the Alabama Broadcasters Association (non-government entities) implemented the plan. The committee includes members from the Alabama Emergency Agency, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, public and commercial broadcast station owners/management, the National Weather service and now with AMBER being implemented, members of local and state public safety agencies. For activation purposes, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and for Amber alerts, the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Within minutes.

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

The Alabama plan also includes procedures to include AMBER alerts, Weather Service warnings and local governments and agency requests for activation. Alerts and warning could be anything from chemical spills to flood evacuations to child abductions.

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

Alabama Public TV audio and the Alabama Digital Satellite Network uplink is used to get the emergency information to participating broadcast stations. There are also microwave paths available. Some local government agencies have in place means to distribute audio directly to stations either through UHF type radio transmissions, telephone dialup patches and loops fax the old Plextron system.

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

On the state level, there has not been an actual activation, but monthly tests are performed. On the local level, EAS is activated regularly for weather purposes and hazardous cargo spills.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Not sure, but would speculate at least a dozen.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Some agencies and facilities not being manned 24 hours a day. Equipment manufacturers not being able to support upgrades to their EAS equipment to include the new codes including AMBER. We need funds to man the critical agencies during times of emergency. Funds to better equip local government agencies with proper EAS equipment. We need funds to establish additional audio links between requesting facilities and broadcast stations. We need fund to train agency employees in enacting the AMBER plan for instance. And, we need more hours in the day to give to this system. Volunteers have only a limited number of hours they can contribute beyond their bread winning jobs!

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Absolutely! Two in fact. WWL New Orleans and WSM, Nashville, TN.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Redundancy is accomplished by using two separate distribution networks, The Alabama Public Television Network (with 9 transmitters) and the Alabama Digital Satellite Network (with 60 downlinks around the state).

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

There was no additional equipment or cost since these are existing networks. We do have a audio circuit from Department of Public Safety to the ADSN uplink for Amber Alerts.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

All technical questions should be address to Larry Wilkins (lwilkins@al-ba.com).

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Our current plan is available via the Alabama Broadcasters Association web site (www.al-ba.com). The plan is in the process of being rewritten at this time.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Not at this time, however we are working with IPAWS group to address this

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Not at this time, but working with IPAWS and deaf link

Alaska

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

Alaska Division of Emergency Services

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Automatic: less than 60 seconds on first message. Less than 30 minutes for the whole state.

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

Getting ready for Amber. NWS is one of the activation sources.

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

Two links: Dedicated phone line and UHF radio system. Coverage Anchorage from there. Unlinked to three satellite systems. ABC, State of Alaska television system, Alaska Public Radio Network. Public stations receive and uplink on satellite radio system, as well.

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

Statewide: Only one activation.

Local level: A couple of times a year.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Anchorage, Fairbanks and Nome. Three Plans.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Station must monitor LP 1. That might be technically feasible and possible, however. They have had to get exceptions put in the plan. Problem with the way the regulations are written. No way to get rid of warnings on television signals when they are relayed to different parts of state. Lot of information for people who do not need it. Automated ability is very good. Need to build all receivers with a committed frequency. Then broadcasters would be out of the system

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes, they can. But they are not in the loop. The PEP system goes straight into the control room. KFQD in Anchorage.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

There is some redundancy in the satellite relay in Alaska. Outside of Anchorage the message is up-linked over 3 different systems. If the National Weather Service could relay activations substantial gains could be made in redundancy. This is currently being worked on in Anchorage but current architecture being used by NWS will prevent it from being used elsewhere in the state. Additional redundancy needs to be added to accommodate in the event of major seismic damage in the Anchorage area.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

At present traditional analog UHF, POTS, satellite, ENDEC technology makes up the Alaska EAS.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Bryan Fisher
Alaska Statewide Emergency Communications Office
907-428-7096

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes. <http://www.ak-prepared.com/IMAWS/>

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Not beyond what the regulations require.

Arizona

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

The Arizona EOC

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Almost immediately. Some TV stations will hold them for as long as 18 minutes in prime time.

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

We use it for statewide Amber only, locally for NWS. No other uses presently.

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

Telephone, and EAS activation directly. The EOC can directly input to the system.

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

For Amber - twice. During the forest fires last summer in NE Arizona, a dozen or so. Before last summer, never.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

12, one for each county

7. What are some problems with the system?

The state is too big and there are areas that can not hear any station except for them and therefore have nothing to monitor. Cable systems don't pick up area stations. (i.e. Page, Quartzite, and eastern mountain communities) Also lack of cooperation on the part of many broadcasters. It took the FCC's help to call on some broadcasters to get forced cooperation. Also with consolidation, sometimes LP-1 and LP-2 in the same facility and no other station in the small markets willing to accept responsibility.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

No, None.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

State VHF National Guard Relay System

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

At the moment no new technology, the old stuff is EAS, and National Guard Relay on DPS microwave.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Robert Reymont 480 820-2439

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Univision is going to translate EAS messages into Spanish and they will become a "Spanish LP station."

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Not at this time.

Arkansas

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

Don't know that ADEM has primary authority as listed. State Police initiate Morgan Nick (Amber) alerts, etc.; NWS does its thing with weather alerts. ADEM has never issued an alert as far as we know; they do have the ability to do so if needed.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Immediate.

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

Morgan Nick (Amber), NWS

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

Radio & TV via AETN and NWS direct inputs.

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

Thousands of times primarily by the NWS.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

None

7. What are some problems with the system?

Commercial TV and news radio stations have weather and news departments that interrupt programming as necessary with better information than can be delivered in 2 minutes using EAS. State Police notifies these stations immediately via phone or FAX with Morgan Nick and other information, so they really do not use EAS. General comment from all TV stations is that EAS is one more unused thing in the air chain to go wrong. Another major problem is the EAS DTV requirement with no real hardware available requiring one DA and AD conversion every time we do a test or have an alert. Analogue hardware is getting old and problematic. New hardware is a major investment for dollar-a-holler radio stations. New codes requiring firmware changes have not been added due to cost to radio stations, no real need for the new codes anyway.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

When the EAS system was put in place we asked the Commission folks at NAB in Vegas about national messages. Old fashion Conelrad mentality makes our nearest national PEP being AM radio stations in Kansas City and New Orleans. When asked why all networks (ABC,CBS,NBC,FOX,PBS) were not getting satellite delivered EAS national alert information, we were told something about a disagreement between the FCC and the Military Office at the White House, so the bottom line was to leave the old cold war plan in place using AM radio. (wonderful example of 21st century thinking)

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

None

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Mix of SAGE and TFT boxes at radio and TV stations. AETN serves as the distribution network and originator of RMTs. EAS messages can be originated by the Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management or the NWS. We pass only tornado and flash flood information from the NWS. Transmitter in western Arkansas has an additional input from Tulsa NWS. Transmitter in eastern Arkansas has an additional input from Memphis NWS.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Gary Schultz or Mike Clay @ AETN 501-682-4187

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

No

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

None, RWT & RMT have English / Spanish announcement

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Huh? Blind can hear the audio / deaf can see the Chyron crawl, what else is possible given the technology?

California

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

Joint effort between CBA and the SECC and the state Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES). State plan is an overview of the local plans.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

State: Basically within minutes using both the Statewide EDIS and the local origination points. Text messages are transmitted and currently experimenting with electronic translation in the EDIS system.

Local: Some of the county have EAS terminals and use a local government frequency. They can become broadcasters when they activate the EAS system. If no terminal, they have to call the local radio system. Everyone has ability to send EDIS text-messaging. All counties, even the smallest, have this capability. Depends on the size and capability of the local governments. Within minutes, however.

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

AMBER has now been in effect for 5 years. The latest count is about 155 kids have been recovered via the AMBER alert system. Total number of Amber Alerts is unknown; there has been a significant decrease in child abductions in the State. This has been attributed to the success of the State Amber Alert System.

NWS is used to disseminate Amber alerts, used in areas where terrain is a problem for normal broadcast stations. NWS is an integral part of the California system. 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 to third party providers. EDIS sends out messages 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 incidence.com.

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

Basically the same answer except the EDIS system in currently under going testing for a far better CAP based system with considerably more flexibility. Also technical upgrades to the OASIS satellite system.

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

Not sure how to answer this. Basically, with Amber alerts it has been activated quite a bit until recently where there has been a significant drop in child abductions. It has been used for evacuation messages in fire situations, haz mats, etc.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

23, sometimes 24. There has always been a topographical problem along the Nevada border where in some cases the local stations get better and more reliable signals from Nevada. As NWS continues to improve their facilities in these areas some of the local areas come back to the California plan.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Same problems, except the BIGGEST PROBLEM IS TRAINING! Every time we have had a failure in the use of EAS it has been the activators not knowing how to use the system. This has been a problem going back to EBS. Training is the weakest link in EAS and Public Warning in California.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes. In Northern California KCBS (AM) and in Southern California KEWB (AM) are the PEP stations. We are currently working on eliminating the "daisy chain" system and trying to get all stations in parallel.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes...we have the EDIS system which is being replaced by a new super EDIS system using CAP and it is capable of a lot more information. This is also an advantage as it can be used for public safety messages or alerts that do not necessarily warrant a full EAS alert. This is backed up by the State microwave system, also the OASIS satellite and the California Highway Patrol's com centers. Basically, the system is triple redundant.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

See above. The State has developed its own system as it seems considerably more redundant and reliable than existing "bought" systems. Cost is hard to figure because of all of the different Agencies involved.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Ben Green at Office of Emergency Services...916-845-8603

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes....currently all of the local plans are being revisited and updated. Same for the state plan.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Yes. We have Spanish LP-1's.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Yes...for the Deaf we use TV open caption, for the blind we use radio

Colorado

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

EAS Chairpersons and the local FCC

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

A lot of it depends on the station. Within the allotted time.

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

Amber, NWS - part of EAS to begin with.

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

Over the Air relay. Stations listen to the LP 1. Some can't hear this station because they are located on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. They have special permission to listen to cable rather than LP 1 station.

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

Not many in the last year. Only have warnings when there is life threatening issues. No severe thunderstorm warnings. Tornado, Flashflood, Forest fires are the most common. 20-24 a year depends on the weather. Don't want to have the cry wolf syndrome. Don't want to have so many that people take it for granted.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

13

7. What are some problems with the system?

EAS is a complicated system that doesn't work. The simpler the better. Needs to be instantaneous rather than delayed -- within half an hour. Tornado will be back in the sky by then. Some of the stations can't listen to the LP one. The terrain in Colorado is an issue to deal with.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

KOA is the PEP. It is also the LP 1. They are one and the same. KYGO is the LP 2. They wanted to have a backup in case there was a fire or something.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Not at this time.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

We are still using the ENDEC units and Daisy Chain System

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Hal Crutchfield is the CECC co-chair and the engineer. He is an executive with Comcast Cable and can be reached at (303) 603-5075 or Hal_Cruthchfield@cable.comcast.com.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes. The website is www.startcolorado.com/eas. The state plan and some local plans are posted.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Some Spanish speaking stations rebroadcast the alerts in Spanish.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

For televisions the message is posted on the bottom of the television screen as a crawl as being compliant with FCC regulations.

Connecticut

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

The Office of Emergency Management and the Dept of Public Safety share the role OEM is now known as DEMHS

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

We can do it in 5-10 minutes once the message is prepared. A large number of stations and cable systems are on automatic pass-thru.

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

Yes we have had an Amber Plan since 2001(for a year) and we connect with the NWS thru monitoring of NOAA stations at each of our primary relay stations

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

We have a microwave backbone backed up by telco dedicated copper circuits connecting our governmental partners with a network of 6 primary relay radio stations.

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

Less than 5 times, other than NWS

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

None

7. What are some problems with the system?

Getting the cable systems to attend meetings regularly and get more involved in the plan going forward. EAS is not strongly established in cable's management culture in this state. Cable systems are regular participants at the table.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes our Primary stations try to monitor PEP stations in Boston (WBZ) and New York (WABC). There are no PEP stations in our state. This is a major problem. The coverage from out of state is not robust. WTIC in Hartford has been designated to become a PEP station which will solve that problem when it occurs.

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 is on a national FM network like NPR, it's a badly flawed plan.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

There are two paths for messages originated at either State Police or the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a bidirectional telephone circuit which connects both of those agencies and all 5 of the SP stations. The second path is via a dedicated channel on the State Police microwave system.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Other than the Sage Endec units at the two State Agencies which were purchased by DEMHS, the telephone lines are donated by ATT and the microwave is donated by the State Police.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

I can be contacted for technical information.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Our plan is NOT available on the internet because there are many telephone numbers and contact persons included in the plan.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

The current plan does not have provisions for non English speaking persons.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

The current plan does not have provisions for persons with disabilities, however, I am the president of the Connecticut Radio Information System which is the radio reading service for the blind and print handicapped and we have installed an endec to provide emergency information to that audience. While none of this is included in the plan, the board of CRIS is working with the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee to institute procedures by which that audience can be reached in emergency.

District of Columbia

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

In DC, it would be Bill Curry at DCEMA. For MD and VA, we should look at their state plans.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

We've seen weather messages turned around very quickly, but whether the LP1 got it from NOAA, or EMNET or from another source is not easy to determine.

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

AMBER alerts and NWS is supported.

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

EMNET is capable of delivering all of the messages; I'm not certain how staffs at the LP1 stations are instructed to treat EMNET messages.

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

I don't believe anyone keeps a count of activations, but we could check with the LP-1 stations. Most messages are weather, with AMBER being next most common.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

There is a single plan for the DC region that will be modified to account for the new rule changes recently announced. (I don't know if they are in the Federal Register yet, but clearly all stations are going to have to make changes)

7. What are some problems with the system?

Coordination with neighboring jurisdictions is always an issue. EMNET satellite delivery works well, but I don't know how many stations have got their EAS gear connected to activate from EMNET.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

WBAL is the PEP station, but it can only be received reliably in the daytime. There is some monitoring of WBAL's sister FM station but since the PEP decoder is at the WBAL transmitter site, I don't know if PEP messages would be reliably relayed on FM.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Maryland, DC and Virginia are all connected to the EMNet satellite system contracted with comlabs. Each EOC can originate alerts, and all stations either have an EMNet terminal or are monitoring a station that has one. No station is more than a single hop to an EMNet station.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

EAS from EMNet was purchased by the respective governments, and I'm not sure what kind of deal each one did.... There is also an annual subscription that is very affordable per terminal. I think the states are picking up that charge as well. (Here at XM we have a terminal, and we pay the subscription....I think it's less than \$200 per year.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

You can contact me, or the State EOC in each jurisdiction. Eric Hoehn, XM Satellite Radio, Inc., 202-380-4109, eric.hoehn@xmradio.com. Comlabs also has good customer care.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

The EAS plan is on the Chapter 37 SBE web site. www.sbe37.org, we are reworking it because of the new rules.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

At this time there is no special provision for non English speakers. I think FCC rules permit stations to do the alerts in their primary language if it's not English.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

We are working on a rewrite of the plan to accommodate disabilities. I'm looking at what other states have come up with, but so far there have been no changes.

Florida

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

The State Plan is prepared by the Florida Association of Broadcasters and the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The State Plan is a compilation of the local plans of 12 Local Area Committees plus information pertaining to the State Wide system only. A copy of the Florida plan can be seen and downloaded on www.fab.org. The maintenance and implementation of the plan is done, at the State level, by the State Emergency Communications Committee, which is co-chaired by the Association Chairman and the Director of the Division. Locally, each area has a LECC, co-chaired by a broadcaster and an emergency manager.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

By our plan, we want to activate the EAS system within 15 minutes of the intention to do so. Depending upon the nature of the incident, we have done it in less than a minute but some AMBER Alerts, requiring a prepared script and the notification of involved Police Agencies before the activation, have taken up to 45 minutes. The Florida State Warning Point is staffed around the clock and all of the telecommunications personnel are trained and experienced in delivering either a live or a taped activation.

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

Florida was a pioneer in the use of the EAS system for Missing and Abducted Children notifications and average about 20 AMBER alerts per year. This Division implemented and operated the EAS portion of the AMBER plan for two years but have recently given that responsibility to the equivalent of the Department of Law Enforcement, Missing Children Clearinghouse. The use of NWS alerting was described earlier.

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

Several methods are used for dissemination of EAS messages.

The largest numbers of EAS activations are done as a result of National Weather Service issuing severe weather watches or warnings. A requested, not mandatory but almost universal, practice of Florida LP-1 and LP-2 stations is to use the local NOAA Weather Radio system as a third input to the encoder of the EAS relay stations. Over 99% of all EAS activations are by this method where the NOAA Weather Station activates their SAME codes which then activate the endec at the LP-1 stations.

Non NWS activations are normally done by the State Warning Point in Tallahassee via the ESATCOM satellite backbone. Satellite terminals are in each LP-1 and LP-2 station in Florida, as well as in each County Warning Point. The State Warning Point can activate the EAS LP stations in any area from Tallahassee. Some, not all, counties also can use their satellite terminal to activate their local LP station. Other Counties have legacy activation systems to their LP stations or even relay stations via two-way radio or telephone and several counties are now using the EMnet system for activation over the Internet. We require that each Operational Area have at least two different and separate means of activations and several of them have a half dozen or more. We do limit, by plan, the local Operational Area stations and EOC's to activating for their areas only, the State Warning Point is the only site that can do a statewide or multiple operational area activation.

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

The State Warning Point logged more than 200 statewide activations. 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 less than 30 and included 13 AMBER Alerts plus some major road closing notices, boil water notices or 911 system difficulties. Only two of the AMBER Alerts were done on a state-wide basis, all of the other activations were of a local Operational Area coverage.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is the depository of 12 Operational Areas in Florida which all have developed and submitted local area plans. In addition, one of the Operational Areas is so large that we have subdivided it into two sub-areas and, in Southern Florida, we have developed a plan for the Spanish speaking population so, in effect, we have 14 plans. They are all current, approved and updated periodically. Any requests

for changes to local operational areas are forwarded to the Florida Association of Broadcasters for concurrence and consistency.

7. What are some problems with the system?

The majority of the problems continue to be the numerous and frequent changes in LP-1 and LP-2 station assignments due to station changes in ownerships, personnel, studios, etc., and in educating station staff and management about the EAS system.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

The State Warning Point in Tallahassee is the state entry point and monitors the PEP system via two methods. Because of the distance from Tallahassee to Orlando, location of the PEP, the PEP cannot be heard directly at the SWP. However, a satellite terminal at the Orlando PEP station rebroadcasts the PEP traffic over the satellite backbone, where it is heard by the SWP and every other satellite terminal on the network, including all of the LP-1 and LP-2 terminals. In addition, the SWP monitors the NPR squawk channel on the NPR satellite which repeats all PEP traffic from the National PEP in Washington. That audio feeds a separate EAS encoder which is on the satellite backbone and, of course, all EAN's are repeated automatically so we have two totally independent source of PEP activity forwarded in real time to all LP stations. The PEP routine weekly tests work every time but there has not yet been a national activation or a national monthly live test.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes, the primary entry point is located at the State Warning Point; secondary back-up systems are located at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; tertiary back-up is the Tallahassee National Weather Service Office.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

The State of Florida funds and supports a statewide satellite system to carry the messages statewide or by operational area.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

For EAS Plan information, contact Harold Joyner, Fla. Association of Broadcasters (850) 528-0812 or Haroldjoyner@yahoo.com. For technical system information, contact John Fleming, Florida Div. of Emergency Management (850) 413-9900 or john.fleming@em.myflorida.com

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, the plan is located at www.fab.org or www.floridadisaster.org.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Yes, in the South Florida areas are divided in Operational Area A and B (Hispanic EAS network).

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

The current state system is compliant with FCC requirements. Persons with disabilities receive public information about what they can do to better receive EAS messages.

Georgia

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

GEMA works with the local broadcasters in Georgia to implement and coordinate our state's EAS plan. It's been in existence for more than four years, working since its inception very well. The broadcasters through the FCC have adopted the plan and have installed the EAS equipment at all radio, television, and cable systems through the state. The web-like system assures that each broadcaster monitors at least two other stations, with procedures in place to forward designated messages, and allow the user to define other procedures for other messages. Some chose to automatically forward to their air chain weather announcements, etc. Others do not.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Many broadcasters set their automated EAS equipment (Sage, TFT) to auto forward many messages. This ensures immediate relay along the network. Others chose to wait until a break in programming to avoid a jarring message on air.

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

Georgia does alert for AMBER warnings, statewide and national emergencies, and weekly and monthly system tests. Other optional messages for broadcasters include the National Weather Service and local government activations, as set forth in the state plan.

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

GEMA delivers its emergency messages via a statewide satellite network. The primary stations in each region monitor the GEMA information stream constantly. National and statewide messages work through the channel, as well as the direct national monitor in Macon, the geographic center of the state.

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

Each station is required to broadcast a weekly test to their listeners. Statewide, there is a monthly required test that each broadcaster must forward within 15 minutes of receipt. The weather service and GEMA also run weekly tests that print at each station's location, where they can forward the messages to log them, depending on the activation.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Not given.

7. What are some problems with the system?

The Georgia plan works pretty well. Broadcasters understand the importance of a functioning system and work together to maintain the operations when necessary, broadcast concerns about any local network point of failure have been brought to the attention of the communications committee for GEMA EAS. If a couple of phone calls could not resolve the problems, the FCC is always available to remind noncompliant broadcasters of their legal obligations.

GEMA and the primary broadcast partners at WSB Radio in Atlanta have revised the state plan at the end of 2002. The first plan was put together five years before that. Revision was necessary to reflect changes in radio stations and coverage areas, call letters, etc.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

EAS messages are delivered primarily through the radio stations across the state. There are 13 regions in the state, around major cities, that each clusters 10 to 15 counties for regional information. There is a state primary radio station in Atlanta, and a National Primary in the center of the state in Macon. The radio stations deliver the EAS messages as audio information and data transmissions that other radio, television, and cable operators can monitor for their audiences.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes, state is divided into regions and each region has 2 or more primaries. Additionally, there are leased land lines to all state and national primaries as a back up.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

E-M Net. 10 year budget was \$700K.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Clint Perkins III
Director
State Operations Center
Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Office: (404) 635-4207
Mobile: (404) 326-1902
1-800-TRY-GEMA (24 Hour)
cperkins@gema.state.ga.us

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, from our GAB website and GEMA website.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Not yet. Plan is in the works to address Spanish language alerts.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

YES. Visual crawls are used by TV.

Hawaii

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

State Civil Defense is the overall coordinator of the statewide plan. County governments for the Local portion.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Not sure of what is meant by "turnaround". If time from send to receive - under a minute.

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

Hawaii version of Amber, NWS. No other use is allowed besides that and Civil Defense.

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

If it's a statewide emergency, State CD generates the first EAS message, then the counties take over (since evacuation plans etc are specific to the county) All EAS messages are sent by the encoder.

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

We don't track that. Outside of monthly tests, none on the past 12 months.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

4 - One for each county.

7. What are some problems with the system?

None now. In the beginning there were too much activation by NWS and some misunderstanding of code setting by broadcast stations.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes. KSSK AM and FM

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes. The state has land-line back up from State CD and County CDs to all LPT-1 and LPT-2 stations and plans are to install wireless RPU's to all stations.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Don't understand what you are asking outside of encoder/decoder

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Courtney Harrington, Homeland Security – State of Hawaii, charrington@lava.net, 808-551-3649 and will forward if necessary.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes. http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/documents/EAS_Plan.pdf

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Yes. Live translation in 10 languages is available on the LPT-1.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

For blind - crawls on TV stations.

Idaho

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

State of Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

It depends on the relay but typically 5 to 15 minutes

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

AMBER, NWS

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

State Relay and LP1 & LP2

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

We perform Required Monthly Tests via the various state and government agencies on a monthly basis.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

There are four Local Area Plans in Idaho

7. What are some problems with the system?

Errors in testing of system, usually caused by lack of training at the origination point.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

YE areas yes in other areas no. Usually provided by state communication services.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Sage/Endec, Microwave, Traffic Reader Boards, VHF Repeaters, I do not have an exact dollar figure.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Rick Kemp, Director of Engineering, Journal Broadcast Group – Idaho, 208-344-3511,
rkemp@journalbroadcastgroup.com

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

I do not think we do

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Other than the required accommodations the broadcasters must implement for compliance, I am not aware of any additional state plans for this.

Illinois

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

Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) operates a 24/7 manned emergency operations center (EOC) in the Springfield, IL. IEMA EOC is the entry point for state level EAS. The EOC has a full time staff trained in the application of the EAS encoder/decoder. IEMA maintains 16, 45MHz low-band two-way radio base stations across the state that are used as the link to the local primary stations. In the past year we made arrangement for an email .WAV or MP3 file to be broadcast over EAS. We expect this will be the link used by Governor's office for an alert announcement via an audio file attached to an email.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

IEMA is at the ready 24/7 to activate about 2,400 + Radio, TV and cable head ends at the direction of the Governor for a state EAS level alert. The State Plan requests all station install the CEM code. As the take over is under voluntary station control for local alerts there is no way to determine how a CEM message would open up the system as the programming is voluntary and at the station's option. Only the Presidential EAN would open up the decoders for an immediate take over. During our inadvertent EAN take over of a LP station to a primary station took 31 seconds.

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

The National weather service maintains about 28 base station networks for NOAA Weather transmitters in Illinois which are independent of IEMA. Stations are encouraged, in the state plan, to maintain a NWS monitor receiver to the station's EAS decoder. IEMA does not duplicate the weather alerts performed by NWS. Each is a stand-alone function and independent of each other.

The SECC, Illinois Broadcasters Association (IBA), IEMA, and Illinois State Police (IPS) worked on a joint effort to create an Amber Alert Plan for Illinois.

We use the NOAA Wx radio path to solve the clearance problem by not requiring the LP1/2/3 to clear an Amber Alert. The NWS bypasses the LP stations with the alert being transmitted over the NWS VHF weather radio network. With the NWS path, each station, by the direct link (no relay) can decide how they want to respond to an Amber Alert. The Amber Alert also alerts general public who monitor with a SAME equipped weather radio receiver.

NWS is fully hardware and software equipped to perform the CAE alert. We have a MOU in our state plan outlining the Amber Alert process. Since the creation of Amber Alert Plan in Illinois 53 Amber alerts were broadcast with 19 recoveries credited to the alert. (Source C. Lubich, IPS)

NWS could send a RMT but the odd month dark time would alert general public who elected to monitor NOAA Wx radio 24/7 in the over night periods.

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

IEMA maintains a 45.44 MHz base station network across the state. 16 two-way radio base stations are located throughout the state on dedicated landline links to the IEMA Springfield EOC. This is the 2-way radio network monitored by the 33 LP 1/2/3 stations across the state for an EAS alert. The radio system has a low level of traffic and is used for HAZMAT spills, nuclear power plant events, and other IEMA functions. For the Chicago area LP 1 and 2 we have installed a wired dedicated connection to the IEMA EOC.

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

We do the RMT from the IEMA EOC and get good results. Portions of the state would have been activated for weather situations. We had experienced an inadvertent Presidential Alert June 26, 2007.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Chicago E911 has a plan in place so the Mayor of Chicago can send an alert from the E911 center to LP 1 and 2 and reach the Chicago media outlets in about a 4-minute cycle. This link is tested four times a year. We have LP 1 and 2 holding the alert for a 3-minute verification interval to make certain the alert is valid.

DuPage County has a formal plan with an operational EOC.

Will County has a formal plan with an operational EOC.

I do not have copies of any other formal emergency plans.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Our state committee is alive but funding for travel to annual meets in Springfield would be helpful.

IBA hosted a SECC meeting June 14, 2007 as a part of an IBA statewide conference. IBA has be-friended the SECC committee and we are working together, with IBA support, to improve the state EAS plan.

I serve on the PEPAC BOD and enjoyed reviewing the previous variations on the 2003 survey reply. It was the first time anyone ever polled the state EAS SECC chairs. The answers ranged from excellent to poor. This is to be expected, as the group has received no direction.

I serve on the PEPAC BOD and enjoyed reviewing all the variations on the survey reply. It was the first time anyone ever polled the state EAS SECC chairs. The answers ranged from excellent to poor. This is to be expected, as the group has received no direction.

At the past EAS summit III 27 SECC chairs were present. You would think the FCC reps attending would have taken the opportunity to address the SECC chairs to discuss state plans. Travel was paid for by the NAB grant. Thinking about that missed opportunity makes my stomach burn.

The Federal government has done a poor job of supporting EAS. Our small PEPAC program was getting lost in the shuffle. It is the President's system (with its roots in the President Truman era - CONELRAD) and yet the White House has not taken much interest in EAS. PEPAC has received significant grant funds in the past 30 days to roll out PEP stations in every state that was announced several years ago. Fund for high risk station and maintenance of aging existing systems was added.

EAS continues to be a snake without a head - good intentions but no "Central Command Authority." Last time I saw a presentation by FEMA EAS spanned some 9 Federal Agencies in one way or another. This FEMA slide attempts to show the various connections for EAS support by Federal agencies.

Maybe in the years to come and under Homeland Defense the EAS program might be expected to improve. Recall, it had taken nearly two years after 9/11 to make HLD a component and absorb agencies such as FEMA into ERPA. It will probably take another year for the re-organized FEMA to ERPA to re-discover EAS. Based on this analysis we best get these state programs into working order. We could die in place waiting on the Federal component to come to our aid. The broadcast industry has invested more than \$120-million in EAS equipment. That investment should be made to work to protect the public in the best and most efficient manner possible.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Illinois EOC has no reliable WLS-AM-PEP station reception at the State EOC. What I found was the part 15-radiation noise from the state LAN (and other sources) at the IEMA EOC was as strong in level as the WLS PEP signal. While we might obtain a suitable signal, we opted for the PEP NPR connection. The local NPR station connected the station's ENDEC to the cue channel of the NPR satellite feed. IEMA connected its ENDEC to a FM receiver tuned to the NPR station. Therefore, when the PEP alert is sent over the NPR satellite cue channel it will take over the local NPR station and be heard at the IEMA EOC ENDEC and be relayed over the IEMA 45.44 MHz 2- way radio system. This would activate the LP 1 and LP 2 stations for the Chicago area (high population count) and where possible the LP1/2/3's monitor WLS-AM-890-PEP for a presidential alert.

A more recent Illinois problem with the NPR-PEP link occurred when the IEMA EOC moved to a new EOC center. Reception of the Springfield NPR station was not possible. In the meantime the FEMA satellite link was installed and this links to FEMA FOC for a EAN. We proved this link worked during the inadvertent EAN test that occurred June 26, 2007. This is all being revisited to remote the receivers to an out building and bring audio back on dry telco like pairs to the Sage Endec.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

The Illinois Terrorist Task Force obtained federal grant money for EMNet product.

Terminals are placed in all 102 counties Emergency Management offices, E911 centers including Chicago E911 EOC, IEMA EOC and about 11 LP1 stations.

Problem is ownership does not make it operational. For the most part it appears the EMnet sees moderate use and at the IEMA EOC terminal is on the side line and for the most part ignored. At the LP stations it has been deployed but is not functional. System needs training for operation and a mission statement. At this point EMnet appears to be an expensive night light. To make EMnet work someone needs to take "Command Authority" over the system.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Our state EAS EOC equipment is donated, loaned and borrowed. The state supports a two-way radio system made up of 16 low-band 250 w- base stations sited across the state. The cost to own and operate is paid for by IEMA. Volunteer efforts support the EAS equipment at the EOC. No funding sources support EAS. Photo IEMA EAS entry point rack. PC are IEMA WAN wave file playback and 2-way radio control PC.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

The SECC chair Warren Shulz (312-984-5328) is a point of contact for the EOC EAS entry point. Alternate is Dennis Lyle IBA CEO (618-942-2139), or Jim Carollo CE-WGN-LP1 (312-222-4701)

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

IL EAS plan is hosted by IBA web site at: http://www.ilba.org/downloads/FCC/IL_2005_EAS_PLAN.pdf

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No provisions for non-English audience. Stations broadcasting non-English are expected to make translation.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

I believe the video industry has regulations that require compliance with video text. No components are included in the EAS plan at this time.

Indiana

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

The Indiana State EAS Plan is implemented by Broadcasters and Cable Systems within Indiana mainly through the FCC EAS Office, with assistance from FEMA Region V plus cooperation from the Indiana Governor's Office, the Indiana Dept. of Emergency Management and County EM Agencies, the Indiana State Police, and the National Weather Service.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

LP stations can issue immediate Local EAS Activations and can quickly relay Local NWS activations. State EAS Activations travel through FM Relay network, and can be delayed several minutes to an hour through this chain as the message works its way outward. This information has not been tabulated.

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

Besides National Messages, the Indiana EAS can be used for State and Local emergencies. Amber alerts are State emergencies. Local emergencies come from State Police District Posts or NWS or local Sheriffs or local Emergency Management officials.

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

EAS messages are disseminated to stations and cable systems via off-air monitoring assignments of PEP or SP/SR or Local Primaries or NOAA Weather Radio. Telephone or teletype or wireless links are also used in some areas. LP1 stations are assigned to monitor PEP for National EAS messages and SP (or SR) for State EAS messages. Authorized officials contact SP for State EAS Messages or LP1/2 (or individually affected stations and systems) for Local EAS Messages.

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

The FCC EAS Office was collecting EAS Activation data from broadcasters and cable systems, although that reporting is voluntary (and I don't have this information).

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

The FCC ordered silent the LP-1 station for Terre Haute Indiana Local EAS Area and while this position remains vacant NOAA Weather Radio has been deemed the 2nd monitoring assignment for area broadcast stations and cable systems. Thus there are now three "Interim" Local Plans with LP-1 vacancies (monitoring NWS in the interim).

7. What are some problems with the system?

Two of the twelve LP1 stations in Indiana relinquished their duties, and broadcasters in those areas have been unable to fill the vacancies, even with assistance from State and Federal Agencies. The Indiana State EAS Plan is completed but "Interim" until both LP1 vacancies are filled. LP1/2 stations are not reliably receivable by all stations and systems in certain Local Areas, and broadcasters/cable systems haven't reached agreements to change or improve. Uncertainty of station/system management's participation in State or Local EAS Activations, esp. with those operating unattended. Occasionally undependable primary electricity at certain LP studios or transmitters adversely affects EAS Activations. Stations and Cable systems don't getting current or updated Local and State EAS Plans because the FCC has stopped their publication and distribution to appropriate stations, systems, and authorized officials.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

All LP1 stations are assigned to monitor a PEP station. There are occasional reports of poor/no reception (not sure why PEP stations can be heard on car radios in stations' parking lots but not on their indoor EAS monitoring receivers).

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Indiana State's EAS System has these redundancy features: LP1 and LP2 stations each monitor the State FM Relay Network for statewide emergency activations and tests. All other Indiana broadcast stations and cable systems monitor their LP1 and LP2 stations for national, state, and local emergency activations and tests. The Indiana NWS's NOAA Weather Radio system carries statewide Amber Alerts as a backup to the State FM Relay Network. Satellite and terrestrial links between Indianapolis broadcasters and other Indiana stations also serve as a backup to the State FM Relay Network.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

The Indiana EAS uses the traditional FCC type-approved encoders and decoders and Over-the-Air transmissions and the cost is unknown.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Contact Indiana SECC George Molnar for technical information about the Indiana EAS.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes: www.wndu.com/eas

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

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

State EOC (Emergency Operations Center) has that job for emergencies that affect large parts of the state; National Weather Service takes care of warning for Flash flood, tornados, Hazards like Ammonia gas. We also allow local communities to request activation directly from the LP-1 and or LP-2 in their operational area.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

We have not "put a watch to it" but a good estimate is 2-5 min. Amber alert tests got to all corners of the state in under 5 min.

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

We started an "Amber" plan last month, NWS, homeland security, hazardous chemical spills etc.

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

Radio only all messages are relayed from station to station both AM and FM. We are currently working with the state to use the state wide fiber optic system to act as a second path for all EAS messages. All LP-1 and LP-2 stations will monitor the system

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

We keep no records of that. During the active weather season quite often.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Only a few, I have no firm data on that we do not require or ask that the plans be sent to the S.E.C.C.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Difficulty in establishing a second path, mostly the "last mile" issue. We can get the information to the community but how to get it to the LP station with out having re occurring cost in perpetuity. Getting some managers and Engineers to take it seriously.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

We have no PEP station close. We monitor Kansas City as best we can. (810 WHB AM Kansas City Mo.

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.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes, we also send the EAS information out over the state fiber network, to the LP 1 stations.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

EAS box about \$2000/ station, State fiber network \$25,000

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Joe Schloss or Jim Davies

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

No.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No.

Kansas

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

The Adjutant General Division of Emergency Management

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Worst case: 15 minutes if planned worked perfectly. Best case: within 30 seconds

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

NWS: Yes. Amber: Yes. No other uses at this time.

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

Primarily satellite delivered state-wide. Anyone who doesn't have a satellite listens to a station that does. No Microwave transmissions. Satellite and over-the-air, and NWS service when all offices are operational with their endecs.

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

Weather Service sends out messages regionally as needed in sever weather. Other than a test, the only time that we have used EAS state-wide is for Amber alerts.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

I do not know. But I would guess not many.

7. What are some problems with system?

The biggest problem was the fact that there was no way to reliably get the PEP station. Amber forced us to make the plan better. The problems will be mostly solved when the NWS offices EAS equipment is operational and we get the state plan updated.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Partially. This has been one of the problems with the plan. During the state they monitor the station in Kansas City. (810 WHB) Daytime: OK. Nighttime: Doubtful. The new state plan will include NPR stations and NWS and this will help alleviate some of the problems.

Yes. WIBW, the state primary, monitors two stations that monitor a PEP station. (810 WHB in Kansas City)

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Daisy chain is supplemented with Kansas Information Network satellite delivery.

Additional redundancy when all of our 6 NWS forecasting offices have their endecs operational.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

See above

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

State EAS Chair is Bill Nolan

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No – but when NWS is fully operational with their EAS NOAA weather radios will help in this area.

Kentucky

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

Ky SECC, consisting of : Ky Emergency Management (Ky EM), Ky Educational Television network (KET), NWS, Ky Broadcasters Assn. (KBA), Ky Early Warning System (KEWS), WHAS/WAMZ radio SP-1 Louisville, WUKY radio SP-2 Lexington, Ky Cable Telecommunications Assn.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Average around 12 minutes to cover state via the state relay network. (Daisy chain) Once the KET system is fully in place, in approximately 2 months, all LP stations across the state will receive EAS activity simultaneously.

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

Amber, NWS, Local EM area tests and potential activations, EOC's annual Earthquake Preparedness drill.

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

In the past, the state relay network. This network has been tweaked, over the past few years, to an average coverage effectiveness of around 80%. Implementation of the KET network should bring this figure to very near 100%, and greatly improve the audio quality. (Audio tends to degrade as it passes along the daisy chain) In spite of the potential reliability of KET, the state relay system will be maintained by regular follow-ups of RMT's.

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

Frequent weather activations. Amber- 3 or 4 times a year?

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Ky EM has designated 14 Local Operational Areas, each of which has its own area plan.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Through changes in monitor assignments and various other efforts, most of the above problems have been eliminated. The southeastern KY mountains are still hit and miss. Use of KET should provide solid coverage. The two-way radio system, used to send EOC alerts to the State Primaries, had been a source of problems. This was solved by switching to KEWS for EOC delivery. Occasionally there have been audio intelligibility problems, with different duty operators reading text into a microphone. (Modulation levels etc.) EOC has purchased and is installing a high quality text to speech synthesizer to provide consistent audio quality. The State police can e-mail an Amber and EOC can have it read by the synthesizer. (It sounds very natural)

We missed an Amber alert. This occurred during our transition period, when we had only one link from EOC. It had failed and no one knew it because the link was silent unless EOC was sending an alert. We installed an endless loop digital audio test message that allows the SP's and KET to verify reception and audio quality at any time. Any EOC message automatically interrupts the test message.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

SP-1, WHAS-Louisville, monitors WLW, PEP-Cincinnati. The newly installed SP-2, WUKY-Lexington, will receive national EAS from NPR, Wash. DC, via satellite, and also plans to monitor WLW.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and if so, how?

Yes. The network between the two SP's, EOC, KET, and KEWS is double and in some cases triple redundant. The daisy chain is designed in two bi-directional loops, one for the eastern half of the state, another for the west. Should the chain break in one direction, the LP-SR should receive from the other direction. Once all LP's have begun monitoring KET, we will have a third, very reliable, source for EAS. KET's signals are distributed via a statewide microwave network. Should a link fail, the system is "self healing". It automatically re-routes the signal through other links, bypassing the problem.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

KEWS is a microwave based system, providing reliable communications to government, military, Police, etc. It was developed after the 1974 tornado outbreak demonstrated the vulnerability of land line based communications. The two-way radio system, previously used to connect EOC to the state primaries, has been replaced with KEWS. KET has provided the means for simultaneous transmission of EAS to all LP's, and will be given the designation of LP-3. KET also has in place, their "DATACAST" system. This is a multi-channel digital microwave network, capable of delivering video, audio, text, etc., independent of their regular television programming.

Costs at this point, which haven't been excessive, have mostly been absorbed by the various entities involved. (THANKS!!) Not much, in the way of new equipment purchases, was required. The DATACAST system is another story. I'm guesstimating \$30 to \$40 thousand to put it in all LP stations. We are exploring funding possibilities and hope to have it in operation by Feb. 2009.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Greg Happel, EAS Coordinator
KySECC/KBA
650 Malone Rd.
Hodgenville, KY
Phone/fax: 270-325-4120
Cell: 270-401-2793
E-mail: ghappel@kvnet.org

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Not at present. Once changes are official, we will compose and post the new State Plan.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No. We don't have a large non English speaking population.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

Louisiana

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

There has not been a need for any governmental entity to handle this responsibility. Volunteered help has been sufficient for this duty.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Based on the Test that has been run by FEMA and LOEP, typical turn around times is well within FCC guidelines. On an actual Amber Alert, which was initiated by the Louisiana State Police, the turn around took less than 15 minutes to cover the state.

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

1. LOEP (State) – Direct access to our network via encoder at their site.
2. Nuclear Plant – (Regional) activated by the River Bend Nuclear Power Plant
3. Weather – (National) activated by the National Weather Service
4. AMBER – (Local) activated by the Louisiana State Police

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

The primary method of delivery is the daisy chain method. Louisiana Public Broadcasting put a secondary method of delivery in place for AMBER Alerts. This method utilizes a satellite delivery system to their affiliates.

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

It has been activated a numerous times because of weather conditions across the state and for AMBER. As many as 4-6 times per day and as little as to 4-6 times per month.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

To the best of our knowledge, no written local plans exist.

7. What are some problems with the system?

1. Disproportionate amounts of activations by the Weather Service compared to other Alerts causing public apathy.
2. Lack of build-in safeguards in the equipment to prevent rebroadcast of originated stations normal programming due to equipment failure.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes, WWL

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS, and if so, how?

New IPAWS system set up by FEMA

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Internet feed to all prime 1 stations, none FEMA setup.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Richard Petty (richardpetty@clearchannel.com)

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Not yet.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Not yet.

Maine

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

Maine State Emergency Communications Committee in cooperation with the Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Maine State Police

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Immediate because lead network broadcast all alerts immediately.

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

Amber, NWS

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

Over-the-air reception.

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

Up to 20-50 times a DAY, depending on the thunderstorm season (emphasis intentional). In the past 3 years, there have been no EAS activations other than those originated by the National Weather Service.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

0 - Frankly, we discourage the idea of local plans. Maine is a relatively small state, and we prefer to have the "filter" of Emergency Management/State Police oversight for activations, rather than giving direct access to 400+ local emergency managers.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Mostly with the weather service over utilizing the system. Fear is that people get used to it and ignore it. In some isolated instances, stations can't receive signal. They use the secondary network of FM stations that they can monitor. Biggest overriding problem is re-educating people about the change from EBS to EAS. It is not just for anyone to use as the best way to get out a message. They don't understand that it is a voluntary system at the state level.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Maine Public Radio, which is the State Primary Network, is under consideration for addition to the PEP Network.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

No answer.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Waiting for answers from Tristan on A&B, will send the info as soon as I get it.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Tristan Richards

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, at <http://www.mab.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3309>

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No, none at this time.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No, none at this time, though the Maine Emergency Management Agency has done extensive work on the disability issue, and our state provides subsidies for alerting devices for the hearing-impaired.

Massachusetts

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

Massachusetts Emergency Management (MEMA) and Massachusetts State Police (MSP) (Amber)

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Monthly tests propagate in over an hour. Actually alerts would be significantly quicker.

EMnet is in place, although some of the 8 stations equipped with terminals never completed the installation.

Massachusetts State Police are aware they can activate through their EMNet terminal for emergencies other than AMBER Alerts.

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

The State addresses EAS in general and has specific provisions directed at Nuclear Power Plant and AMBER. Generally weather related alerts are not used in Massachusetts. There are way too many alert activations by the weather services for EAS to be effective.

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

MEMA or MSP calls the LP or State Primary stations. MEMA also has dialup into the EAS decoders at two State Primary Stations.

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

Very rarely, less than once every few years.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

I am not aware of any "local" EAS plans. The state plan does not provide for local plans. The state's AMBER plan requires all AMBER activations to clear through the State Police headquarters. An attempt by one city to develop their own plan resulted in a false activation on the day the local plan was announced.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Some feel that it takes too long to propagate across the State if the relays are slow to forward. They would like a state radio link.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes. WBZ is the PEP station; it is the alternate State Primary. In addition 5 of the 7 LP stations monitor WBZ. I will provide additional comments regarding this question (as the PEPAC president) in a separate response.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

There is limited redundancy, we have the traditional daisy chain, and EMnet terminals at the SP/LP stations. The State Police call center has my cell number to contact me by phone in the event of an emergency. They already do for AMBER Alerts. I always follow up on the message flow to be sure it gets out.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

The State has the EMnet System (personally, I do not endorse EMnet). There are terminals at State Police Headquarters, MEMA, the highway department and turnpike authority and eight the 8 state/local primary stations.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Technical contact is Mark Manuelian 617 787-7054, or cell 617 593-3790

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

The plan is not on the internet, it is a protected document.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No provisions for multilingual

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No provisions for people with disabilities

Michigan

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

Implementing the EAS Plan in Michigan on the governmental side at the State and Local Emergency Services Level is handled by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division. The real work of making EAS work is done by the State EAS Chair, the EAS Committees, the local EAS Chairs and the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. The State EAS chair is also a staff member of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, and works closely with the State Police, NWS of Michigan, AMBER and other interested groups in developing plans, working with emergency services managers and others to solve coverage problems, works with stations, get cooperation between players in the system, etc.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

In weather related severe level warning events (such as a Tornado Warning), the turn-around is typically 90 seconds or less once received by a LP-1 or LP-2 station.

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

EAS is used very heavily for severe weather in Michigan. EAS serves as a local and State all hazards warning service. Local, city and county police may access the system through their Emergency management personnel.

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

Local EAS area delivery is via several methods:

Each EAS each area uses 2 LP stations. In most areas these are 100KW or 50KW FM stations, selected for their optimum coverage of the area. Other factors are considered: willingness to cooperate with EAS and its goals, back-up power at studio and transmitter, etc. There are exceptions where AM stations are used in Michigan. For example, the Southeast Michigan/Detroit is served by two 50 KW AM LP stations. In several other EAS areas, we use more than two LPs, due the size of the area or the geographic shape. These stations all monitor the State Primary, State Relay off-air, Internet, or satellite (at least 2 of 3 methods for each station).

Michigan's State Primary is a 100 KW FM, located in the south central Lower Peninsula (it is nearly equa-distant from all major population centers, and is therefore easily picked up off-air in 4 adjoining TV markets. The State Primary is also relayed through another system consisting of another 100 KW FM station located in the north central portion of the lower peninsula, also by a digital satellite relay on Galaxy 4R and internet relay to several key PBS regional stations that serve as the as the State distribution hub. This unique relay system was needed again, due to the difficulty in covering all of Michigan's unique land mass, especially it's Upper Peninsula.

The Michigan State Police Emergency Operations Center has several methods I have placed there, including direct hard-wired Telco links to the State Primary, a radio link, dial up and soon their own fiber path could be used.

Locally, when a city Emergency Manager wishes to request a local EAS activation it is still usually by dial up phone, although that is not always the case. Several local EOC's will add secure dial-up access from an EAS encoder to their LP1 and LP2 stations from their Emergency Operations Centers this spring in Michigan. This is especially important to stations that are in unattended modes at least part of the day.

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

We do not have any reported local EAS activation for a non-weather event in Michigan in the past few years. Last year EAS was activated for 590 serious weather related events (tornadoes or severe thunderstorms) in Michigan. There have been several incidents in which the incident probably qualified for local EAS activation but the local Emergency Manager chose due to a variety of circumstances (wind direction, site remoteness, chemical combinations, staff not trained in EAS activation, etc.) not to use the system.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Local EAS plans were developed in 1996 for all areas of Michigan and the FCC approved them in 1998, 12 operational areas in all.

We are planning to begin meetings this spring and summer to re-write all the local area plans this year, and anticipate creating at least one new EAS area, for a probable 13 total areas in Michigan. Area plans are changed as stations and needs change, the National Weather service adds new Weather Radio Stations, and other factors require rethinking each plan. Every plan is reexamined to see what can be done to improve cooperation between those who manage the emergency messages and those who must deliver those messages. We have found great interest among local commutates to improve these plans and make their EAS work.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Funding

For 25 years, EAS was a purely a volunteer activity. The Michigan Association of Broadcasters provided some support for printing and postage. Things dramatically changed in 2002, when the MAB created a new Director of Technology position, and included EAS as a part of this person's duties. Although this did not solve all funding concerns, it began to assign EAS to a priority, not a volunteer duty. Having a person assigned these job duties allowed some time for real administration of EAS in Michigan.

No State Connectivity

The first tangible benefit was writing for a FEMA grant early in 2002. The Hazard Mitigation Grant was approved third quarter of the year, and will be used to solve EAS relay problems that we never been able been able to address since either EBS or EAS federal mandates. Through careful purchase and in-kind funding, we expect to test the hybrid internet/satellite relay system in spring 2003, and for the first time actually be able to successfully relay a Required Monthly Test Statewide which has never been able to be done.

No P.E.P.

Michigan continues to be disconnected from the rest of the U.S. in the case of a national EAS activation.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

No! This has been a major and very serious flaw and it has brought to the attention of F.E.M.A. many times, and is, in fact, in on going discussions right now. None of the supposedly 4 available P.E.P. stations are listenable in Michigan day and night. Michigan got some partial funding to equip it's State Primary station back in 1988, but has seen no funding for this purpose at all since that time. We continue to hope to receive some funding provide a P.E.P. for Michigan. To date, it has not happened. We have repeatedly submitted requests. As recently as Friday 2/7/03, we received this communication from Mr. Ed Buikema, Director of F.E.M.A. Region V. Director Buikema stated, "that the process is still ongoing" and acknowledges the demographic data that we have submitted. "They will continue to monitor with the appropriate headquarters directorates and keep (us) informed."

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

- a) Three transmission paths exist between the State EOC and the State Primary EAS station.
- b) The State Primary has back up power systems at both it's studio and transmitter. It has a backup transmitter, a backup antenna, and an emergency studio at the transmitter site.
- c) Distribution of the State Primary to the Operational Areas is redundant in some areas: Besides off-air pickup, many LP-1 and LP-2 stations also monitor the satellite signal of the Michigan Radio Network (which passes all State EAS activations).
- d) The signal of the State Primary is streamed continuously using Energy Onix TelelinkIII units to three state relay stations (and station groups) including WNMU-FM, Marquette; WCMU-FM, Mt. Pleasant-(and it's 7 repeater stations throughout the northern portion of the Lower Penninsula; WUPS-FM, Houghton Lake which is a 100 KW station that reaches approx 30 counties in central Michigan.
- e) Each LP-1 station in Michigan is also equipped with a phone auto-coupler access to their EAS Endec. This allows an alternate path to each EAS area, if the State Primary should fail.
- f) Although we cannot transmit fully encoded EAS messages in this manner, we are in the process of equipping each LP-1 in the State (as well as several LP-2s in the larger markets) with an 800 MHz radio on the State's trunked system. This allows direct communication from each Emergency Manager, the State Police to each LP-1, independent of the public switched phone system.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Besides the conventional EAS equipment, off-air monitoring schemes, etc. we are using (at no cost) the satellite signal of a commercial news network, as well as Internet streaming units, a dedicated satellite receive system in one remote EAS area, and the 800 Mhz radio links described above. We also have several county and municipal EOCs that have EAS message creation software and a phone dial-up system to place the encoded message into their area's LP-1 endec.

Price estimates:

- EAS endec and phone dialup delivery systems at EOCs or 911 Centers: 6 counties and 3 municipals, approx \$3500 per. Purchased by Emergency Management at each.
- 24- 800 MHz radios on MSP system deployed at \$3500 each.
- 1 dedicated satellite receive system, Ironwood, MI at \$9000.
- All EAS units in Michigan updated to current expanded Event Codes: \$35,000. AT&T Grant
- Telephone auto-couplers at 14 LP-1 stations, EAS origination equipment at MI State Police Fusion Center: \$9,000.
- EAS origination equipment at State EOC, with long form programming capability, audio editing, etc. \$10,000

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Larry Estlack, SECC chair, 517-484-7444.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

No answer

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No answer

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No answer

Mississippi

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

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency serves as the coordinating agency for the plan. Took the Wisconsin plan and made some adjustments to it. Modified it and fine tuned it for our needs.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Ought to hit every station in the state within 5 minutes. Could be an additional timeout at the LP level. Within 15 minutes it should be delivered statewide.

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

Amber plan developed and utilizes EAS. NWS, etc. Civil emergencies and weather emergencies. State-wide disaster.

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

Over-the-air transmission. For AMBER, dedicated phone line between DPS. NWS distributes through NOAA radio. Talked of using satellite phones, but the costs are prohibitively expensive. Looking at using a microwave link, also.

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

Depends on the weather situation. Probably about 70-80 weather activations. Beyond weather, only one activation for a civil emergency. AMBER plan went online Dec. 2002. Test went out on 12/22/2002.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

None. There has been talk, but nothing has been formalized.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Turnover of personnel and the change of ownership of stations has been a problem. New owners, manager, word doesn't get passed about the responsibility that a station has assumed. This is the biggest problem. Problems in some areas for stations to listen to their assigned station. Some are very conscious of their responsibilities and some are not.

Also, problems with generators in the North Mississippi area. Need money to provide to LP-1 stations in this area.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

No. This is a major shortcoming of the plan. Not a PEP plan in the vicinity. In process of developing a plan that allows for this. This is one reason why they are looking at microwave transmission. This is in the talking stages right now. Entry point now is by default the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Nearest PEP station is in New Orleans.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Redundancy is achieved through two separate paths for an EAS message—through a commercial radio station daisy-chain backed up by a statewide public radio relay network (which should be re-implemented in the next few months). Additionally, we're planning to begin using NOAA weather radio to distribute statewide EAS alerts, including AMBER alerts.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Weather-related EAS alerts are distributed via NOAA weather radio, statewide emergency management alerts are received by the SP-1 via low band radio and AMBER alerts are sent over a dedicated phone line from Miss. Highway Patrol. We are seeking funding for a satellite-based delivery system. The cost of the current system includes encoders positioned at the state emergency management agency and MHP, a radio receiver at the SP-1 and the phone line from MHP. Estimated total outlay: \$2,000 plus the monthly cost for the phone line.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Randy Bell, SECC Chair or Jason Black, chief engineer, Clear Channel Radio, Jackson-- (601) 982-1062.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

While it's not a complete copy of the plan, the most pertinent parts—including monitoring assignments, relay agreements and monthly test schedule-- can be found on the Miss. Association of Broadcasters website-- msbroadcasters.org

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

We have made no provision for non-English speaking audiences. This is an issue we must address.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Likewise, this is another issue we need to deal with.

Missouri

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

Until recently, the plan was implemented by the SECC composed of broadcasters/cablecasters in co-operation with the State Emergency Management Agency. As Amber and homeland security became big (political) issues, a plan was developed for statewide warning called Alert Missouri. The plan is partly in place and the remainder is quickly being implemented. It is administered by an oversight committee composed of broadcasters, police and sheriff's representatives, state Highway Patrol, and others as needed and directed by the Governor. The committee is chaired and sponsored by the State's Director of Public Safety. His department runs most of the state law enforcement and safety agencies. I am primarily responsible for putting the plan into writing and getting it to EAS participants and I have help from Missouri Broadcasters Assn. doing that. Hopefully, the committee will help out as well.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Typical EAS message turnaround varies by degree of severity. We are most concerned with tornado warnings. They go within a few minutes at most at most of the stations. Other warnings vary depending on their severity to the station's area. That timing is determined by the broadcaster for their local situation.

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

Amber alerts are included in and are, in fact, the root reason for the Alert Missouri system. It was quickly realized that the system should be an "all hazards" system and is being planned as such. State Emergency Management has direct access to the system as will local officials through the nearest MSHP troop headquarters. Weather can be part of the system but is already handled very well by the weather service through NOAA weather radio. Most stations use NOAA radio as their prime source for weather alerts already.

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

Statewide EAS messages will be disseminated, under the new plan, by the Missouri State Highway Patrol through their troop-wide transmitters as well as fax to LP-1 stations. Eventually, we hope to have all stations listening to their local MSHP transmitter directly.

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

We have never activated the system statewide for other than tests. We do so each spring via the weather service and have also done so in the fall using SEMA as the source. Only recently have the spring tests been successful. The fall tests have not been very good due to lack of a good statewide delivery system other than NWS.

Several Amber alerts have crossed into adjacent operational areas, but that was handled on the local level.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

There are 14 operational areas of the state. Some include counties in neighboring states if appropriate. All have operating local plans which are being updated as the state plan is revised. Of those areas, 5 have Amber plans in place and the rest are working on developing them.

7. What are some problems with the system?

The big problem with the system to date has been the reliance on the FM relay system for statewide alerts. It simply was not workable. Further, there were some problems with getting the various state agencies we needed to help us on board. The push for Amber systems has helped greatly to solve that problem. Previously, SEMA (state Emergency Mgmt.) was the only agency that did anything with EAS and that was built on an attack scenario for the most part. They did the best they could, but were limited in resources to help. The Governor has jumped on the bandwagon now, so there is a lot of help--What we need now, as do all the states, is the money to put the entire plan in place. There is pending legislation in the state house to establish the Alert Missouri plan by law (now it is by executive order), but I don't see any money being set aside specifically for it. The budget is really tight now, so I expect we will have to make it work with what we've got.--And it can do a pretty good job with the resources already in place.

Another problem is getting all stations to participate in the system beyond what is required by law. Some do not see the need for the system and others feel the EAS equipment is so cumbersome in use that it slows them down in getting critical information on the air. I think the first group may be convinced if the statewide plan works well. The second group has a valid concern. The equipment was not ready for "prime time" when it came out due to the short fuse the FCC had on the EAS rollout. There are lingering problems that need to be addressed. There have been some improvements, but not nearly enough to suit many, myself included. In our state plan we try to overcome some of the problem by having the message ready to go when it comes to the stations, requiring that the station simply forward it. That will help, but a more human-friendly interface to the EAS equipment along with better operator training is needed.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

The state entry point of record today is the Originating FM relay station which monitors WHB (NP-1 Kansas City) most of the time. Signal quality can be bad occasionally. As the new system goes on line, the NP-1 will be monitored by the MSHP troops in the Kansas City area and in St. Joseph which is 60 miles north of KC. they will relay national alerts as needed. These monitor points are much closer and should receive a good signal day and night.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

No

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Encoders of various manufactures

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Lloyd Collins (Lloyd is no longer at Cumulus. He is now with stations in Moberly. His e-mail is Lloydc@regionalradio.com)

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

No, because we are in the process of trying to acquire the SpectraAlert system which will completely revise our current plan.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

Editorial comment: When are the feds going to spend a little money to make this thing work?

Montana

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

Department of Homeland Security

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

They turn them around as soon as they receive them; however, various factors determine with the stations and those originating the message also affect delivery time.

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

EAS and AMBER both rely on NWS. There is also a phone and fax out component to Amber. The state uses some localized reverse 911 but we have nothing to do with that.

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

NOAA weather radio issued through one of four regional NWS offices. The initial call is made by DHS/DES and which goes to NWS which verifies the call and then issues the alert.

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

State-wide, never. Generally these are issued locally or regionally.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

I have been told that there are sixteen local/area plans. In some cases they work "relatively" well. In others they have not been adequately tested and others don't seem to work at all. The state plan supercedes all regional plans.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Change of personnel in both emergency management and broadcast operations. Lack of training for emergency personnel to date—we hope to rectify this. The MBA has hired a contractor to work with the broadcasters to insure not only compliance, but that all station personnel understand how the system works.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

There is one PEP station in the state. About a third of the state can monitor it. The current PEP system with the limited number of entry points is ineffective in a large state that happens to have a large mountain range dividing it.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Not at this time.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

The cost has been borne by NOAA/NWS and the individual stations. No state appropriations have been expended specifically for EAS.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

At this time probably me (Greg MacDonald, Montana Broadcasters Assn., 406-244-4622, mba@mtbroadcasters.org). In the near future our contract engineer once he gets all of the pieces lined up.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Once the state signs off the final version (very soon—I hope) it will be posted.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No. According to the state of Montana we have no non-English only speaking citizens.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

Nebraska

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

The Nebraska EAS plan was developed through the efforts of Bob Eastwood, Communications Manager, NE EOC and Vern Killion, NE SECC. It is sponsored by the Nebraska Broadcasters Association and the Society of Broadcast Engineers. NE EOC maintains and distributes the NE Plan. The NE Plan may be viewed at www.radiostation.com/sbe74.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Monthly EAS tests typically air within 5-60 minutes of origination for most radio operations. TV response time depends on each stations program content and management directives.

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

EAS is used for weather and AMBER alerts. Nebraska's first and only AMBER alert originating from Council Bluffs, all resulted in a successful recovery. All AMBER alerts result in state wide EAS alerts. Many stations do not use EAS for rapidly moving storm alerts such as tornados since a direct verbal warning saves precious minutes of warning time. Each station is required to alert their county and each adjoining county to insure state wide and interstate warning areas.

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

Nebraska has state wide educational TV and FM coverage. The NE ETV and Public FM networks are dual primary required monitoring sources. The second required monitoring source is each local station's nearest NOAA VHF weather radio station. The NOAA operations have memorandum of agreements with local emergency managers to use the NOAA stations for dissemination of local or regional alerts.

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

No tabulated records are maintained to summarize EAS activations. Most TV stations have weather warning scrolls for storm warnings. Since radio does not have scroll capability EAS weather alerts are mainly used by unmanned automated operations. Manned stations immediately relay weather warnings as they are received from NOAA Radio.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Numerous local plans have been developed but are on file as a part of the State of Nebraska Emergency Management LEOP plans.

7. What are some problems with the system?

We feel the Nebraska EAS system is about as good as can be expected for a state wide system which is un-funded and developed by unpaid volunteers!

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

We cannot 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 and XM Satellite.

We are not aware of any PEP stations we can RELIABLY monitor at the NE EOC day or night.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

All stations monitor the satellite fed Nebraska ETV TV network (9 TV,9 DTV and 16 translator transmitters) or the Nebraska Public Radio network (10 FM state wide transmitters) fed from the network control center in Lincoln with secure telephone and internet EAS input from the governor or other official as detailed in the State EAS plan. All stations also monitor state NOAA All Hazards Radio (22 state wide transmitters) with secure EAS input from State

officials or local Emergency Managers. Both primary sources have satellite fed EAS inputs for National EAN messages.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Each station acquired their own EAS encoder/decoder unit and off air receivers as originally mandated. Estimated initial cost of \$3000 to \$5000 for each station.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Vern Killion SECC, KRVN, 308-324-2371, vkillion@krvn.com.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes. The latest plan may b found under the 'State EAS Plan' button at <http://www.sbe87.org/>

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No.

Nevada

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

There is no "governmental entity" responsible for implementing the Nevada State EAS Plan. Our EAS plans were written by broadcasters, local emergency managers and the National Weather Service. The state declined to be involved in the EAS plan. EAS functions well on a local level with training sponsored by the Nevada Broadcasters Association for both broadcasters and public safety officials. While there is no way we can make a government entity use the Emergency Alert System, we work closely with various government agencies to make them aware of the availability of EAS and they can use it for the Public Warning portion of their own emergency and disaster planning.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Our standard for EAS message turnarounds is 15 minutes as mandated by the Nevada EAS Plan.

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

Nevada has a functioning AMBER Alert Plan. Since 2001, we have had 22 activations involving 29 children with 27 children safely recovered. (Two children are believed to be in Mexico with their natural father.) The most common reason for EAS activations in Nevada continues to be severe weather warnings followed by fire information and evacuation warnings. In addition, local emergency officials are invited to participate in our required monthly tests. They voice short public service announcements during the tests to promote emergency preparedness.

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

EAS messages are delivered to our Local Primary stations and then out to our Participating Stations and cable operators. Our Participating Stations and cable operators are required to monitor the two Local Primary stations in their area and the National Weather Service NOAA weather radio. We have recently integrated broadcast EAS equipment into our three NWS offices so that non-weather activations can be integrated into the NOAA broadcast stream. In addition, Reno is the West Coast beta test site for the HazCollect system.

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

There were a total of 72 activations in Nevada last year.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

The Nevada State Plan includes three local plans--Western Nevada/Eastern California which includes the metropolitan Reno area as well as seven California counties in the Eastern Sierra from the Oregon border to Central Nevada, the Southern Nevada/Inyo County, California Operational Area covers Las Vegas and southern Nevada including the northern part of Mojave County, Arizona while the Eastern Nevada Operational Area covers eastern Nevada to the Utah border. Nevada was one of three states which met the FCC's deadline of 1 January 1997 for implementation of the EAS.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Our biggest challenge has been developing a way for the rural areas to receive EAS activations. No one broadcast signal covers the state so there has been no way to easily do statewide activations. However, the Nevada Department of Transportation has offered to develop a statewide EAS network through a combination of their microwave radio and fiber systems to provide emergency information for travelers. We also provide a continuing education and training program for law enforcement and public safety agencies in both EAS and AMBER Alert. The training programs are supported by the Nevada Broadcasters Association and are also available to our radio and television stations and cable operators.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

There is one PEP station in Nevada, KKOH in Reno. When the statewide EAS network is developed, Local Primary stations around the state will be able to monitor messages sent to KKOH. In addition, there will be a network "hub" in the state's Emergency Operations Center which will be set to monitor KKOH and will have one of the new satellite systems to monitor the national channel set up by XM radio.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

At this time, the redundancy built into Nevada's EAS includes:

- 1) Two Local Primary stations for each Operational Area
- 2) The Local Primary stations have back-up power
- 3) Several Local Primary stations have telephone interfaces that allow activations to be phoned in when the stations are not staffed
- 4) The National Weather Service offices in each Operational Area have broadcast-type EAS equipment which can receive and retransmit non-weather activations from the LP stations and can originate non-weather EAS activations
- 5) The State EOC has an EnDec and the ability to issue EAS activations for anywhere in the state
- 6) The State Department of Public Safety Communications Centers have EnDecs and the ability to issue EAS activations for anywhere in the state
- 7) The State Department of Transportation Communications Centers have EnDecs and the ability to issue EAS activations for anywhere in the state

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Five of the six Local Primary Stations in Nevada use TFT EAS EnDecs because TFT is the only manufacturer that offers a complete telephone interface. The EOC for Clark County, where Las Vegas is located, has a TFT EAS EnDec, as does the Clark County Dispatch Center and the Clark County Fire Department. We chose to use TFT EnDecs in the statewide EAS network for the same reason. Because we have standardized our equipment, the EAS Committee and Nevada Broadcasters Association has three "backup" EnDecs that can be used if equipment at a Local Primary station or one of the EOC's has problems and has to be sent in for repairs.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Please contact state chair Adrienne Abbott, Nevada Broadcasters Assn., 775-750-5987, nevadaeas@charter.net for any information about Nevada's EAS.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

No, I decided back in '96 that putting our plan on the Internet could create security problems for us. Plans are distributed to each station and local and state public safety, law enforcement and emergency management officials along with our EAS training programs.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Per FCC policy, we encourage our foreign language stations to broadcast tests and activations in their language. We teach these stations how to listen to the activations so they can translate the audio message and rebroadcast it. We also teach them how to find more information about the event so that they can continue to provide information for their audiences.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Our EAS Plan does not provide special accommodations for the disabled, however, our EAS training program emphasizes the requirement that TV stations follow the FCC's Visual Display Rule requirements for EAS messages as well as any critical information that they carry. In addition, the Nevada Broadcasters Association has worked with the Nevada Department of Information Technology to develop an AMBER Alert website where TV and radio stations can subscribe to receive detailed information about AMBER Alerts. Stations are encouraged to display this information in crawls, on their web sites and in emails to their website subscribers. Our AMBER Alert partners, including transportation agencies, casinos and businesses also receive these emails and carry the information on their outdoor signs and distribute it in emails to staff and customers. The website is updated every two hours during an AMBER Alert with the latest information being pushed to all subscribers. Our future plans include developing a similar website for non-weather, non-AMBER EAS activations. We are currently working with the deaf and hard of hearing community to make them aware of EAS and ways to obtain emergency information and public warnings.

New Hampshire

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

We have three entry points: NH Office of Emergency Management, NH State Police and National Weather Service.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

NWS alerts and tests are relayed instantly to seven key broadcast stations. Some of them use automatic relay, the others delay up to 15 minutes. The lowest station on the food chain could be delayed by half an hour.

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

We now call our missing children plan Amber (we didn't in 2003). An Amber steering committee consisting of law enforcement, state transportation & broadcast personnel meets quarterly and are near completion of a second revision of the Amber Plan.

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

We piggyback the NH State Police microwave system in the 450 MHz band. The microwave system rebroadcasts all NWS transmissions for the benefit of broadcasters that can't pick up NOAA Weather Radio. Seven key stations monitor the microwave system and all other broadcasters and cable operators monitor one of the key seven.

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

Other than weather warnings, only a handful of times for flood evacuations and Amber alerts - maybe twice a year.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

None - we are such a small state none are anticipated.

7. What are some problems with the system?

The microwave system is fraught with difficulties. It was put up 11 years ago on a wing and a prayer and receives no state budget money. State Police commitment and participation is questionable. As recently as January 2003 they "forgot" to send a scheduled RMT.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Very few can pick up WBZ Boston cleanly. The NH Office of Emergency Management monitors them and 90% of the time would be able to rebroadcast a PEP alert on the microwave system.

New Hampshire's state entry point (NH Office of Emergency Management) CAN monitor PEP station WBZ Boston. If they lose their signal, and we have to use NH State Police as a backup entry point, we lose PEP access.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes. Our main origination point for EAS is NH State Police, with backup at NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management. If they are both inoperative a telephone password system is setup to allow them to ask the National Weather Service to activate civil types of EAS announcements.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

We utilize a channel on the State Police microwave communications system. NHAB provided all of the EAS encoders & decoders used at State Police and Emergency Management. The State Police microwave system repeats all EAS traffic that originates on NOAA Weather Radio. The system was built with a one-time FEMA grant of about \$90,000 in 1993.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Ed Brouder, WZID/WFEA, 603-668-0652, brouder@grolen.com.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

No--for security reasons we don't want confidential phone numbers and frequencies circulating in public.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

New Jersey

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

The state Office of Emergency Management is the governmental agency charged with implementing New Jersey's EAS plan.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Stations choosing to participate in EAS are able to turn alert information around within a matter of minutes if not immediately.

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

EAS in New Jersey is primarily used for Weather events and Amber alerts. On rare occasion activation has been requested for county-wide 911 telephone outages.

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

EAS messages are sent by NOAA Weather Radio and by the NJ OEM (Office of Emergency Management). NJOEM contacts either the lead FM radio station in the state capital, or they have the option of using a secure 800 Mhz trunked radio system to each of the 7 key LP-1 FM radio stations around the state.

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

I do not have any specific numbers relating to EAS activation in NJ. During spring and summer, weather related activations for such things as Thunderstorm Warnings, Tornado Warnings and Flood Warnings occur on almost a daily basis some where in the state.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Because of New Jersey's size there are no local plans. Some broadcast and cable outlets do have local agreements with civil authorities in the communities in which they are located.

7. What are some problems with the system?

There are two major EAS problems in New Jersey (#1) getting our information into adjoining states/cities (Philadelphia and New York). Broadcasters in these cities are not required to monitor NJ EAS outlets. A large number of NJ residents listen to out of state radio and TV stations, meaning NJ related EAS messages often go unheard. (#2) Since EAS is voluntary, it is hard to know when a station is participating, and when it chooses not to participate in any given event/activation.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Along with our public radio network (NJN) monitoring WBAL's satellite feed, LP-1 stations bordering Pennsylvania and New York monitor either WABC in New York (this is for northern New Jersey) and the PEP feed into Pennsylvania through Pennsylvania's public television network. This is primarily for stations near Philadelphia and Allentown PA.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Since we use a 3 tiered system (the originating government message source to the regional LP-1 station to the remainder of the broadcast & cable communities) EAS redundancy in New Jersey is accomplished by having all EAS participants (broadcast stations and cable outlets) monitor the New Jersey Public Network and their regional LP-1 station. Both of these sources use different radio links to the state EOC. Furthermore all New Jersey EAS participants are strongly urged to monitor NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio. NOAA is linked to the state EOC by radio and NAWAS telephone. Weather Radio serves as our third message routing path. Redundancy is also assured by New Jersey Networks ability to cover the entire state and by state-wide coverage using LP-1's, WKDN-FM (Camden) & WFME-FM (Newark).

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

We do not use "technology" except for an 800 Mhz State Police trunk radio system. New Jersey Public Television is working in cooperation with FEMA in the development of DEAS and datacasting.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Rich Archut (NJSECC chair) 856.854.5300, wkdntm@afo.net; Bob Schroeder (NJEOM Communications Officer) 609.963.6954, lppschr@gw.njsp.org

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, at njsecc.net

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

We do not have any provisions for non English speaking people at this time. We are however working towards this.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Except for areas around nuclear power plants we do not have any special accommodations for people with disabilities. We are however working to change this.

New Mexico

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

No governmental entity has come forward to take responsibility.

We are planning a meeting with the State Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety to begin discussion. The meeting target date is mid-December, 2007.

We had prior meetings with DPS and also DHS before it was an official State agency. DHS becoming official has changed the landscape, requiring us to almost start over.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

EAS messages are generally immediately forwarded by New Mexico broadcasters if the type of alert and the area of the alert are properly programmed into the broadcasters' EAS equipment.

Full activation usually takes about 15 minutes from initial transmission to last transmission. This time is anecdotal, not based on surveyed information.

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

New Mexico state law provides for the Amber Alert and the new Missing and Endangered Person Advisory.

Many stations monitor NWS and forward alerts at their discretion. NWS is not available in all parts of the state.

Evacuation notices due to fire have also been sent via EAS.

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

State level EAS messages are received at KKOB(AM) via telephone (Public Switched Telephone Network) or in the event of a catastrophic failure of the PSTN an official of the City or County can literally walk across the street to our studios to deliver the message "live". The official must be on the approved list and have the appropriate password.

NWS message can enter the EAS wherever a station chooses to monitor NWS and forward certain kinds of alerts. NM stations are encouraged to monitor NWS where available.

There is a plan being implemented to allow a direct statewide activation from the state Emergency Operations Center.

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

Statewide activations number approximately between 1 and 12 annually. The new Missing and Endangered Person Advisory -- newly implemented in July, 2007 -- has resulted in a larger than average number of activations.

Individual station activations due to weather can be frequent, and probably reach well into the hundreds on an annual basis.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

The current Emergency Communications Committee does not have any Local Plan on file.

Operational area plans are rumored to exist in a few areas. No plans at a smaller granular level exist.

7. What are some problems with the system?

No direct link between the State EOC and the SEP. We're working on a solution for this.

No State agency takes clear responsibility for EAS. DPS has legislated authority to administer the Amber Alert and MEPA programs.

No backbone distribution system to handle regional activations from the State EOC. New Mexico is a large enough state to require some form of backbone distribution so that regions can be better served by area LP-1 stations.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

The State Entry Point and the New Mexico PEP station are one and the same -- KKOB(AM).

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Not really. Most of the state can receive EAS from two sources that use diverse methods to distribute, i.e. a TV translator fed by microwave and an FM translator, however that still relies on the daisy-chain method of distribution and voluntary participation.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

The state EAS relies on almost statewide coverage by television stations' microwave networks, TV translators and some FM translators. The PEP station is carried on the State Police radio network, but few stations have access to that.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Sean Anker, KOB-TV, 505-764-2442, anker@kob.com

Bill Harris, Citadel, 505-767-6735, william.harris@citcimm.com

Mike Snyder, 505-767-6763, mike.snyder@citcomm.com

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, from the NMBA.org site or SBE34.org, as well as the FCC PSHS site

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No. We continue to have discussion on this issue.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No. TV stations have a character generator crawl as required, but no specific special accommodations have been codified in the plan.

New York

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

SEMO (New York State Emergency Management Office) is the Government Entity, working with the SECC.

The New York SECC is comprised of:

Richard Novik – New York State Broadcasters Association

Daniel Whalen – NYS Public Service Commission

Michael Kennedy – Time Warner Cable

Don Maurer-SEMO

There are two EAS Systems – one for Governor, and one for the Mayor of NYC.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Statewide EAS has not been used by Governor yet. Tests show the possibility of immediate turn around. NYC EAS not used by Mayor yet, but tested weekly.

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

The State Police will be using EAS for Amber Alerts later this year.

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

Satellite system called sat-stream for Governor call in to LP 1 stations, with relay to all stations in NYC

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

Not used yet by Governor or Mayor

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

New York City has a local Plan. Long Island and Westchester County about to publish a Local Plan

7. What are some problems with the system?

Protocol needed between NYC and Albany before NYC will take an EAS message from Governor. That issue is being addressed. Local EAS Plans still need to be codified.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

WABC in NYC and WHAM in Rochester

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

NYC – yes – several LP 1 stations in place

Upstate –VHF frequencies serve as back ups

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Sat stream system - \$600,000

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Don Maurer – Semo 518 269 8209

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

www.nyeas.net

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

North Carolina

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

NC Dept. of Emergency Management

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Generally within a couple of minutes. Some stations wait for programming breaks, and that may run to 6-8 minutes.

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

NWS is the most frequent user of the EAS system, then Amber Alerts (about 5 per month).

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

Emnet & Comlab

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

2-3 times per month is common during the spring & summer

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

I am not aware of any that may be in place.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Need ComLab equipment in every station.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

We use Emnet and ComLabs with radio station "daisy chain" backup.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

ComLab & Emnet

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Mike Montague, NC Emergency Management

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

North Dakota

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

North Dakota Department of Emergency Services

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Weather information is typically turned around within 5 minutes. A statewide AMBER Alert activation can take 20 minutes to complete.

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

Primary has been NWS, AMBER Alert was implemented in 2003. A limited number of Local Emergency Managers have access to EAS equipment through their local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

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

Over-the-air terrestrial based transmission and reception.

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

NWS activations from 1986 to 2006 average 244 activations per year with a high count of 733 weather activations in 2005. AMBER Alert activation average one per year, with EAS activated every one-half hour for the first four hours of an AMBER Alert activation.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

All 8 regional plans have been developed and are in place.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Relay of state wide messages and tests. Regional/local government training and using EAS. Daisy-chain distribution of EAS activations to broadcasters.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

State entry point is a PEP - KFYZ-AM 550Khz

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes, we utilize our state radio communications system to transmit messages to eight locations, providing LP1 stations within the state an additional source to receive EAS messages originating from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The National Weather Service serves as a backup to broadcast messages from the SEOC should our equipment fail.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

The SEOC uses Sage EAS ENDEC equipment. I am unsure of the cost.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Larry Ruebel – 701-328-8100 rruebel@nd.gov

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

No

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

NO

Ohio

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

SECC/ Ohio Emergency Management Agency

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Meaningless to give number. Ohio is setup on automatic relay basis. LP stations set up this way.

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

Amber, NWS: Tornado and Flashflood.

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

Over the air relay. Depends upon what you are talking about: Telephone (phone with autocupler) between county notifiers and LP stations. Over the air relay: LP to Primary stations and cable systems. Fiber optic between State Primary station and some of the LP stations.

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

Average operational area: at LEAST once a month. That varies.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

13

7. What are some problems with the system?

Reliability of reception of over-the-air monitoring assignments

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes. Two PEP stations. One in Cleveland and one in Cincinnati. Full coverage to all LP stations in Ohio via over-the-air monitoring, multiple hops

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Some redundancy exists in cross monitoring. Each of Ohio's 12 operational areas has an assigned LP-1 and LP-2

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

We utilize a fiber optic network for statewide activation and program relay. Telephone couplers for local EAS equipment access. We are considering DataCast to improve over the air monitoring.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

SECC Chairman:

SECC Vice-Chairman

Bill Rossini
Chief Engineer
Clear Channel Radio – Toledo
125 S. Superior Street
Toledo, Ohio 43602
419-224-8321
brossini@clearchannel.com

Mark Patchen
Director, Technical Support Division
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2206
614-889-7155
mpatchen@dps.state.oh.us

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, at www.ohioema.gov

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

Oklahoma

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

I don't know of one government entity in Oklahoma. The FCC is primarily responsible for Oklahoma having a plan. A plan had to be developed in order that stations would have a source to monitor to avoid fines. The OK EAS Committee is not a government agency but volunteers from local broadcast stations in Oklahoma. We receive little to no involvement from the NWS, as well the State Emergency Management group. Both in the past have refused to help us run RMTs. We have found good support from the Department of Public Safety for the State. The answer to your question is none. The state association of broadcasters has taken on the responsibility for making sure the EAS system works as well as it does in Oklahoma.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Tests were turned around typically in 15 to 30 minutes. However, with the recent rule change which I'm sure you are aware of, we may delay these messages for almost an hour, so EAS tests can take over an hour to distribute. An AMBER alert can go out in about 20 minutes.

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

Oklahoma does make use of AMBER and NWS via EAS. We have also attempted to alert widespread telephone outages via use of the CEM code.

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

EAS messages are delivered through broadcast radio and television stations. In addition we use the services of the Oklahoma News Network (ONN) satellite system who volunteers to pass our messages across the state in their network. Typically either the LP1 or LP2 in an area is a member of the ONN.

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

The absolute answer to your question is weekly and every month. But I assume you are asking about activations other than tests. Oklahoma's EAS has been activated less than a half dozen times for AMBER, and numerous times by the NWS. However, most of the NWS activations are done by county or regions. Only AMBER goes state-wide. NWS activations are mostly ignored by broadcasters as we have faster ways of getting information to the viewer in a more visually attractive package.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

There is only 1 local plan that I am aware of in the state. There is no requirement for local plans, nor are public agencies required to use EAS to send public warnings.

7. What are some problems with the system?

The problems with the system... is this a single question or a book? Here are the big problems as I see them. The system is entirely voluntary, which obviously presents problems. Voluntary from the point of who participates in broadcasting alerts, voluntary from those who are assigned to make the system work and voluntary from the point of who and/or when EAS should be used for communicating. There is no obvious funding for network infrastructure. Without funding the system is dependent on volunteers, there is that word again, to pass alerts in a relay fashion. That's a problem. The system design is for a quick early general warning, but many agencies wishing to participate want more. They want to relay more detail, whether it be AMBER or a civil emergency group. The equipment is complicated. Broadcast engineers have to be available to be certain that monthly tests go smoothly. It needs to be simpler to program, and simpler to assure the box works. There are no provisions for testing of individual codes. Did you program AMBER correctly? To find out, you must set off the alarm. Finally, those who have emergency messages to share rarely think and use the EAS system. It is a system required of Broadcasters and cable systems only, and is used by NWS after they have made use of their own radio system if they have time. Few other agencies think to use EAS, know where to go to use EAS or how to effectively use EAS. Instead they do what has been done for years, and contact the media directly or have the media contact them. Most news agencies are hungry for news and jump to distribute warnings.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes and No. No we cannot receive WBAP at our entry point in Oklahoma City. Yes, we did put in a phone line from WBAP to the Oklahoma Emergency Management office at the expense of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters. Having had experience during the Oklahoma City bombing, I would not expect phone service to be reliable in case of a major disaster. But we have tried to do something.

No, our state entry point can not monitor a PEP station, nor can in monitor a station that monitors a PEP station.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

There is some redundancy built into the OK state plan. A state wide news radio network also passes through the EAS alerts via satellite.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

As mentioned above we use satellite. There was no cost to the EAS system, the FCC or the state of Oklahoma. It is done through volunteers.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Roger Herring – KTUL-TV 918-445-9398 rherring@ktul.com

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes. However, it has not been updated. I'm working on that as a volunteer.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Nothing, beyond what the FCC already specifies.

Oregon

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

The responsible party for implementing the Oregon State EAS plan is the SECC Committee. This committee meets twice per year and implements changes, additions and subtractions.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

For the most part, radio stations prefer to stay in the Automatic Mode which means a 1 minute turn around. Television Stations tend to manually forward messages so I would estimate that about 10 minutes average for turn around.

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

Amber Plan: Distributed by the state relay network

NWS: For storm warnings and cooperation with the Umatilla Army Depot's Chemical Weapons program.

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

EAS messages are distributed by three methods in Oregon.

State and federal Messages; are distributed by Oregon Public Broadcasting, KWAX-FM's network, and the Southern Oregon Broadcasting's Network. With a statewide microwave network of stations and translators, we broadcast on 75 different transmitters, including radio, television, full power stations and translators. (A lot of translators) Weather Messages; N.O.A.A. operates 17 weather radio transmitters across the state. Local Messages; Only operational in the larger population areas. When Local emergency managers develop a plan with a local broadcast station to develop a local network to distribute emergency messages. Portland, Bend, Eugene, and Medford have such capabilities. Oregon is a very rural state of 120,000 square miles with a 3 million person population. 90% of threat population resides in Western Oregon, between Medford and Portland. Also about 500,000 persons reside in Vancouver Washington, which is part of the Oregon EAS Plan.

A generous grant from the Oregon Association of Broadcasters provided nearly \$35,000 to build out the state relay network. This VHF/UHF network is currently being installed and will provide the following:

- A. Stations and systems will have a simplified monitoring assignments.
 - a. NOAA weather radio for weather alerts and through Haz-Collect, local emergencies.
 - b. The State relay network, providing state and national messages and access to local counties emergency management centers.
- B. Enhanced features will be available using the administrative message event code.
 - a. Non EAS messages can be delivered to all media outlets simultaneously. Messages such as Amber updates, road and school closures etc. can be delivered by public information officers, and recorded by the EAS decoders.
 - b. With CAP on the horizon, text messages can be delivered to the outlets.
 - c. These messages are not for forwarding, but for news and information purposes.
- C. The system is designed to broadcast the state PEP station KOPB-FM 24hrs/365 days. If provided stations and systems the ability to verify the system works and can be calibrated for proper audio levels.

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

EAS has been activated state wide for 12 Amber Alerts. The statewide EAS network is credited with recovering 13 children. Locally, EAS has been used for civil emergencies and evacuation orders for forest fires.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Local Plans have been slow to develop but some good progress has been made. Of the 36 counties, 28 now have local plans. One county was moved to Idaho. Three counties are in planning, and 4 very rural counties do not have plans. We also have three Washington counties in the Oregon Plan, and we share three counties with the Washington Plan. Local Plans are now in place for the following areas:

Portland Metro, five counties, Washington, Multnomah, Columbia, Clakamas, and Clark County, Washington, administered by Kent Randles of Entercom Broadcasting.

Capitol Area, three counties, Polk, Yamhill, and Marion, administered by Ken Lewetag of Oregon Legislation Administration

Lane County Area, administered by Chris Murray of McKenzie River Broadcasting

Southern Oregon, Jackson and Josephine Counties, administered by Karl Sargent, COBI broadcasting

South Coast Area, Curry and Coos Counties, administered by Glenda Hales, Coos County Emergency Management

North Coast Area, Lincoln, and Tillamook counties, administered by Dave Miller of KNPT-KYTE radio

Clatsop County, administered by Gene Strong, emergency manager

Central Oregon, Crook, Jefferson, Southern Wasco, Deschutes, Wheeler counties, administered by Terry Cowen, Cowen Broadcasting

Columbia Gorge Area, Hood River, Wasco, Gilliam, Sherman, counties Oregon and Skamania, and Klickitat County Washington, administered by Malcom Cole of KYYT-FM, the Dalles

Columbia Basin, Umatilla, Morrow and Union Counties, shared with the Columbia Gorge area, Washington, administered by John Wilson, Oregon Emergency Management

Malheur County was made part of the Boise Operational Area, as the population part of the Boise media market

Linn-Benton operational area, Linn and Benton Counties, administered by Pete Hogue, Oregon Public Broadcasting

On the schedule to organize is Douglas County, and the Klammath, Lake county area.

Wallowa, Grant, Harney, and Baker Counties are very rural areas with single station operations, for one county. These areas do not yet have are local plans.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Problems are usually associated with budgets. Rural counties cannot afford to purchase an EAS encoder and links to a primary station.

Another problem is Cable Television companies owned by national organizations. Companies such as Comcast and Charter Cable, tend to do things their own way and treat EAS as an inconvenience and a legal requirement only. I can state a few examples. They ignore local plans. If a head end is in one operational area and the customers are in another, then the local customers only get messages from where the head end is located. They will not interrupt the audio of the premium channels. Instead, they run a scroll across the screen to tell their customers to tune to another channel to hear what the emergencies are about.

They refuse to enter into agreements with their "Must Carry" television local stations so that cable customers viewing local television station will get repeated messages, as television carries their own and the cable companies carry their own. So they get their programming interrupted twice every month during Monthly Tests.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

No, however, in 2005 the PEP committee established KOPB-FM, Portland as the PEP station for Oregon.

None of the "PEP" stations can be monitored in Western Oregon. Only KBOI in Boise can be monitored in Eastern Oregon Counties. The most populated portion is part of the Idaho Plan. Western Oregon's 90% of the states population has to rely on National Public Radio. We have tried to add KOPB-TV in Portland as a PEP station but the program is not adding any new stations.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

- a) We are building a state relay network consisting of UHF and VHF repeaters using the Part 73 RPU band. These units will repeat OBP's signal providing a second monitoring assignment that will relay national and state messages.
- b) Local OEM offices and counties can repeat through this network
- c) OPB the state relay network consisting of radio and television stations and translators use an existing microwave network and is installing DS3 data lines that give them wideband data paths to key outlets in their network.
- d) With NOAA's haz collect system, we feel that the monitoring assignments will go as follows:
 - 1) NOAA = All weather and local emergencies through haz-collect.
 - 2) SRN network = state national and local emergencies.
 - 3) Radio and TV daisy chained stations that also monitor the SRN, LRN and NOAA signals.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

We were given a grant of \$34,000 from the Oregon Association of Broadcasters to build out the state relay network on 8 key sites. This is the UHF/VHF repeater system currently being installed.

Oregon Public Broadcasting is currently installing redundant paths to their key sites to relay all state and national EAS information.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Chris Murray at Ichabod@kknv.com

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

www.sbe124.org and www.sbe76.org

The latest plan will be posted December 1, 2007

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Not yet.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Not yet.

Pennsylvania

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

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in joint cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Within 15 to 30 seconds after the actual transmission of Data from the EM-Net EAS uplink at PEMA's State EOC to receipt at each station's ENDEC. Individual station participation and relay response times vary...our goal is to insure they all receive all EAS messaging within seconds of its transmission by PEMA.

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

Messages from the PA Governors during a 'State of Emergency' declaration, Amber activations, NWS warnings, and Local Civil Authority messaging meeting closely defined parameters.

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

Primary: Comlab's EMNet-EAS Satellite System to all LP1 and LP2 stations and most broadcast and Cable systems up linked from PEMA's State EOC. Note this is an encrypted secure digital signal with audio and text output!

Secondary: PEMA audio is fed to the Pennsylvania Public Television Network which is routed to as many LP-1's as possible and daisy chain to the remaining four LP-1's.

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

Excluding NOAA warnings...approximately six to ten times a year.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

All 23 PA Operational Areas now have plans.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Failure of the stations to lock down the EMnet terminals so station personal do not accidentally download virus on the machines.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes...but extremely poor audio quality. PEMA's SEOC in Harrisburg, PA., monitors WBAL, Baltimore, MD.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

The EMnet system uses a ViaSatsatellite uplink for all of the State level EMnet Uplink terminals. If the Satellite Uplink is down at any site, the system defaults to using a secure connection over the Internet to send the EAS messages to the stations. At the stations each EMnet terminal has a .9 Meter KU band Satellite downlink to receive the EAS messages originated thru the EMnet system. If the satellite is not working the system defaults to the internet to receive EAS messages. As soon as a message is sent from a county or State EMnet terminal the sender gets a receipt of who received the message. If the EMnet system would totally fail, the Daisy Chain System is still in effect. The State EOC can originate an alert from their ENDEC unit, which travels thru the PA Public Television Network's Fiber to most of the Public Television stations in PA. The LP1 and LP2 stations then monitor the PPTN TV stations.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Pennsylvania uses Comlab's Emergency Management Network system (EMnet) for it's primary method of sending EAS messages. The Terminals cost around \$3,195 each, plus \$45 per month service. Comlabs may have reduced pricing for large purchases.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Matt Lightner the Broadcast EMnet coordinator can be contacted for any technical questions.

Matt Lightner
1771 Beaver Dam Road
Claysburg, Pa 16625
814-239-8323 Phone
814-239-8402 Fax
Matt@LightnerElectronics.com

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes at www.pab.org

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Not at this time. We are looking into what options to use. The Comlabs software has Text to Speech capabilities in multiple languages so we are looking into utilizing it to read the EAS messages on non English stations.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Not at this time, other than the standard scroll on TV stations.

Puerto Rico

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

State Emergency Management Agency thru NOAA

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Aprox. 15 minutes

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

Main usage is for weather alerts.

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

Mainly via NOAA Weather Radio.

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

Very often due to weather conditions.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Old plans are in process of revision. None is fully developed.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Audio quality of messages. Effective monitoring assignments.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

No and Yes.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Each station can receive alert signals from at least two sources.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

????

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Alberto Pereira, 787-383-9020; apereira@caribe.net

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Not at this time, after 1 Jan 2008.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Messages are sent out in English and Spanish

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

TV stations use closed captions to air EAS advisories in scroll vidifont.

Rhode Island

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

It is a joint venture between the Rhode Island Emergency Management which would be the primary agency and The Rhode Island State Police and the National Guard.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Primary station relays Amber and weather in four minutes, participating stations vary from four minutes to something greater.

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

Rhode Island has an Amber Alert component to the plan, which also involves use of the State Highway Department signage in addition to the EAS system. The NWS is also set up to pass severe Thunderstorms, Flash Flood and Tornado warnings.

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

Via Participating Broadcasters.

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

There has never been an activation, there was an attempt by NWS early on but equipment problems prevented it.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

One plan, one operational area.

7. What are some problems with the system?

No response

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes. WBZ and WBMX in Boston is monitored by WWLI - FM and WSKO AM / FM which are the Rhode Island Primaries as required by the Plan. WABC in New York is also receivable in this area.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Redundancy is built into our system as both the Rhode Island State Police Headquarters and RI Emergency Management Agency have separate parallel paths to the primary stations. Additionally a telephone accessible encoder is available at the primary stations.

The primary stations are also "shadowed" by other stations in the same cluster.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

SAGE ENDEC encoders are primarily used to generate and relay alerts, a TFT unit provides the dial up access. RISP is connected via a full time leased phone line and RIEMA utilizes a radio link which is backed up by a Remote Pick Up link from EMA headquarters which is also used as a news source.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Lori Needham - lneedham@ribroadcasters.com - 401-255-8200

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Our plan is not yet available on the internet

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

We currently do not make any special provisions for non speaking audiences.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

We currently do not make any special provisions for non speaking audiences nor the blind or deaf. The television stations do provide a visual crawl which would be of benefit to the hearing impaired.

South Carolina

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

The SC Broadcasters Association along with SC Emergency Preparedness

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

5-10 minutes

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

No

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

By FM relay network. Two networks. One commercial and the second is the State run Educational Radio Network. Plus EMNet - not yet fully tested.

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

Varies by Operational Area but no Statewide activations in recent years.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

5

7. What are some problems with the system?

Relaying messages through the system. It would work much better is we had some other form of communication that would bypass the "over the air" relay system. EMNet should help, but has not yet been fully tested.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes. WCOS-FM, Columbia, SC. This is also the State Primary as well as PEP

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

We have 2 networks plus EMNet. We have daisy chained the LP-1 and LP-2 stations plus a complete network using the SC ETV Radio stations to relay. In addition, EMNet terminals were installed at all LP-1 and LP2 stations, SC ETV Radio and a selected group of radio and TV stations along the SC coast.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Daisy chain and EMNet. EMNet was provided through Emergency Management using a grant. I believe that the cost was around \$200k.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

John George, Broadtech Services, Inc., 803-951-7443, broadtech@attglobal.net

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

We have two stations in the Central part of the state that are part of the EAS Network and EMNet. More to be added.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No at this time

South Dakota

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

South Dakota Broadcasters and the Governors Office of South Dakota

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

NWS sends out the alert within a matter of seconds after alert is decided upon, particularly with flash flood and tornados.

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

Amber, NWS, Civil Disturbance, and county offices of Emergency Management.

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

Off air monitoring, and/or state messages via SDPTV microwave network which has capabilities from the Governors Office.

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

Numerous times---most of the time has been for tornado and/or flash flood or floods.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

I am currently aware of 5 plans at this time.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Need for more city and county Emergency Management department to have encoding equipment, but due to the costs they are not being purchased.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

No

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Contact person referred to in C.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Chief Engineer at KUSD (PBS) in Vermillion, SD 605-677-5861

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, on the State Broadcasters Association web page, both EAS and AMBER

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Television, utilizes closed captioning for the deaf, the blind would have to rely on radio.

Tennessee

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

At present the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters is solely responsible for implementing and maintaining Tennessee's plan. We continue to ask for help from the State's Emergency Management Office (TEMA). The TNAB has purchased encoder/decoder equipment for that agency but they will not place their operations within the EAS. They will not take the responsibility of initiating an EAS. RMTs are scheduled and initiated from the TNAB.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

NWS = immediately, EAN = immediately, Amber = immediately

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

This varies throughout the State. Some of our nine regions use EAS for Amber and others for NWS and EAN. Statewide Amber alerts are transmitted via the TBI/ National Weather Service to LP1 and LP2 stations for relaying and West Tennessee and Eastern Middle Tennessee Amber Alerts are transmitted via local encoding equipment from either Law Enforcement or via the LP1. (NWS) satellite system and NOAA radio very soon.

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

EAS Messages are distributed by broadcast relay and through the Tennessee Radio Network satellite system automatically. RMTs are scheduled by broadcast relay and satellite time in advance.

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

Rarely by a broadcaster. Never by the TAB and/ or TEMA. We feel like we have no "civil authority" and quite possibly do not even have authority to set off the RMTs!

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

None to our knowledge. There are local and regional Amber Plans.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Lack of satellite-TRN path reception redundancy to all LP1s and LP2s. Tennessee's geography does not allow for statewide broadcast relay.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Tennessee's most centrally located LP-1 is a PEP station (State's Capitol), no other LPs can receive the PEP by broadcast relay. Our bordering city LP1s and LP2s monitor MS, AR, VA, GA, AL, and Washington DC via NPR for EAN traffic.

Our PEP station is an LP1.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes, Tennessee Radio Satellite Network

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Sage & MTS Encoders, \$8,000

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Steve Terry, 901.491.1171 – scterry@comcast.net

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, www.tabtn.org

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No

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

The Texas Department of Public Safety/Division of Emergency Management for a decade declined to play any role in EAS besides authenticating AMBER cases. This year, however, the DPS/DEM says it plans to install a state of the art system to communicate emergency information directly with all 50+ Local Primaries across the state.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

In the case of the RMT, it depends on what portion of the state is involved because of the daisy chain system of message relays that in some cases take five hops from the PEP to local primary. Current FCC rules permit up to 60 minutes to relay the message from a local primary station, however in most cases it happens within 2-15 minutes.

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

Dallas broadcasters created the first AMBER plan in the nation in 1997. In August of 2002, the governor issued an executive order creating a statewide AMBER plan in an effort to utilize EAS technology to spread child abduction information to those areas of Texas without a local AMBER plan. Regional Amber Plans currently exist in fourteen different areas in Texas. Many of the AMBER plans do not have complimentary EAS local plans that would provide law enforcement the ability to quickly reach the public through the broadcast community. There have been problems with implementation. The National Weather Service uses EAS extensively, although most broadcasters have programmed their EAS units to only relay "warning" vs. "watch" messages automatically. Automatic relay of critical warning information occurs on many stations that are unmanned overnight.

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

Texas' current delivery system to the 25 state EAS regions is a combination of daisy chain and satellite relay where possible using the resources of the Texas State Networks. Using the daisy chain, for example, it takes five hops (local primary transmitting to the next local primary in the chain) for an emergency message to travel from the Dallas PEP to the Amarillo radio station with primary responsibility to warn the public and other media in the Texas Panhandle. Due to sheer size of the state, the daisy chain relay system is faulty because the coverage area of the primaries is not sufficient to reach from one EAS region to another. The Texas State Networks voluntarily sends the RMT to local primary stations that are TSN affiliates. Without TSN's help, it is estimated that about half of the state's EAS regions would be unable to reliably receive an RMT. As it is, two areas of the state remain dark – unable to receive a coordinated RMT or any state issued EAS messages.

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

In the 25 EAS regions in Texas, activations occur almost daily because of the NWS' reliance on the technology to send weather alert information. Counties and municipalities also use the system, but sparingly. In most cases EAS has worked well, but there are problems with some cable systems that redundantly insert EAS activations over broadcast channels which steps over broadcast news coverage of the breaking event. In large metro EAS regions like Dallas or Houston that have a local AMBER plan, Amber alerts are generated on average about once a month. There has never been a statewide activation of the EAS system in Texas for an emergency message.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Eight of the 25 local EAS regions have developed a local plan. These include:

Amarillo	- Dist. 1
Dallas/Ft. Worth	- Dist. 7
Beaumont	- Dist. 12
Houston	- Dist. 13
Austin	- Dist. 15
San Antonio	- Dist. 16
El Paso	- Dist. 20
Corpus Christi	- Dist. 22

7. What are some problems with the system?

A major problem with the Texas system is the lack of a reliable means for transmission of alerts and tests on a statewide basis. T

Previously the State of Texas had not taken responsibility to ensure that the messages are transmitted to all local primary stations reliably via satellite or phone. Because of the size of the state, transmission is not guaranteed through the daisy chain network of local primaries, even with the additional use of the Texas State Networks network of affiliates. Additionally, some EAS regions have been plagued by problems with local cable systems. In some cases local cable operators have overridden live news coverage by TV stations on their systems with outdated EAS alerts. It occurs despite the fact that the Texas State EAS Plan specifically forbids such overrides.

The execution of a state AMBER plan also has been plagued with problems. Instead of updating procedures set out in the Texas EAS Plan for contacting primary stations directly, the DPS/DEM decided to pass off AMBER alerts to the San Antonio/New Braunfels Weather Station to broadcast and relay to other stations in a particular region. As a "backup" a California web site is paid to disseminate e-mail messages to stations.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Texas has two PEP stations, KTRH-AM Houston and WBAP AM Dallas-Fort Worth which also serve as state relays to disseminate alerts to broadcasters in wide areas. The alerts have to be rebroadcast by other stations in a daisy chain to reach farther areas of Texas at the DPS in Austin, but only during the day reliably. Nighttime reception is subject to prevailing weather conditions.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Yes, but to a limited extent. Messages are distributed through multiple paths across the state. The state Department of Public Safety has the ability to directly transmit messages to state relay stations WBAP, KTRH, WOAI, NOAA Weather Radio and TSN. Unfortunately, there is not enough overlapping signal coverage to provide at least two independent delivery paths to all EAS monitoring stations in Texas. We expect the new state plan will provide much more redundancy.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Our current EAS relays messages via broadcast in a daisy chain from our two PEP stations. We're exploring the use of new technologies for the revision of our plan. The state utilizes FCC spec encoder/decoders just like every broadcast station. We do not have figures on costs.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

David Ostmo, KABB/KRRT-TV, 210-377-4734, dostmo@kabb.sbgnet.com or Chuck Wolf, Media Consultants, 281-980-1400, MediaCon@aol.com.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes a copy of the current plan is available on the TAB website: www.tab.org. The new plan will also be available there whenever we complete the revision.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Yes, we have local primary Spanish stations in several markets where there is a large Spanish-speaking population. They operate the same as a local primary 2 except they translates the alerts before broadcasting them in Spanish and distributing the translation to other Spanish language stations.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

All EAS activations are transmitted with an aural message that blind people can hear. All EAS activations on television stations and cable systems also contain a text message that crawls across the top of the screen, which a deaf person could read. In addition, the state of Texas provides the services of DeafLink Inc. to translate the alerts into sign language for the deaf. Some stations are also working with DeafLink to provide a ready translation of commonly used alerts to be broadcast for events such as a hurricane or tornado.

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

Utah State CEM and Homeland Security

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Usually within 15 minutes at the LP1 and State Relays. Immediately at NOAA (auto forward).

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

Utah has a child alert plan (Amber Alert) in place. The Salt Lake NOAA office was one of the first in the country to be equipped with an auto forwarding EAS decoder (paid for by the Utah Broadcasters Association), making NOAA Weather Radios fed from this office legitimate EAS monitoring sources. The NOAA office EAS decoder listens to the PEP, LP1, and CEM Radio frequencies and can auto forward EAS messages to 13 different NOAA radio transmitters.

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

CEM Radio's (155.025MHz) at the state and several county EOC's as well as the Utah Bureau of Criminal Investigation (responsible for issuing Amber Alerts) have EAS encoders and the LP1 and NOAA monitor this frequency. There is also a call-back alert system in place to verify phone or e-mail requests to the LP1 stations. For Amber alerts, there is also an Internet e-mail system to the Salt Lake City LP1 with an auto post website for other broadcasters to retrieve information.

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

NOAA activates it a lot, perhaps 25-30 times in 2006. Non-weather related; 6 times in 2006. (Amber Alerts)

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

5

7. What are some problems with the system?

We had a really good state relay system in place, using the SAP channels on KSL-TV and KUED-TV, where any and all EAS alerts were relayed. Unfortunately, DTV has blown up this whole thing, as the translator people decided that the signals from KSL(DT) and KUED(DT) provided a much better picture at the receive point and decided to use a demodulated off air pick up of the digital stations to feed the downstream analog translators, many of which are monitored by broadcast stations. This removed the SAP signal and forced the outlying broadcasters to revert to monitoring the TV station main channel audio. Neither TV station is willing to forward all EAS alerts, as we had done on the SAP system. Naturally the DT signals would carry and national level EAN, so they meet the letter of the law for monitoring, but it has compromised what was a very good alerting system. There needs to be a coordinated standard for EAS on DTV. The technology is certainly available in the DTV realm to restore this scheme, but not the money at this point. Fortunately, NOAA Weather Radio is available to most of the stations, although in the original plan, it was only assigned to the area LP1's. We're trying to determine the best use of DTV secondary channel in EAS.

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

It's OK at the LP1, marginal but useable at the Weather Service! FEMA in its wisdom assigned that honor to a 5kw(d)/1kw(n)(DA1) automated AM station on 910KHZ. It would be useable if it had to be, but as a better option, we have the national NPR feed into the system via a dedicated SAP channel EAS box at the local PBS TV station. The KUED-TV SAP is monitored and reliable at the 50KW LP1 station. KUED (TV) SAP monitors NPR's national feed.

If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Kind of! It's not a great signal anywhere, but OK at KSL and KUED. Those that are monitoring KSL, KSLTV or KUED-TV are OK. None of the outlying areas from Salt Lake City can monitor KWDZ directly. The big concern is that reception at the NOAA entry point is very poor during the day and the 1 KW signal is basically unusable there at night. We have the NPR satellite feed into the system at KUED and via off air SAP channel monitoring into KSL.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

The LP1, State Relay, & NOAA back each other up. Where possible the LP1's in each area monitor all 3, or at least 2 of the 3. The PEP, LP1 and most NOAA sites are hardened.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Mostly the standard TFT or Sage Encoder/Decoders. We do have access to the states CEM channel as explained above. For Amber Alerts, the LP1 has donated an e-mail box and a web space on it's server for the posting of Amber messages for all broadcasters.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

John Dehnel
SECC Chair
801-575-7630

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

It can be downloaded as a Word or Word Perfect file.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Not specifically. There are Spanish TV & Radio stations participating in EAS.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

Only in that addresses TV crawls.

Vermont

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

The Vermont Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division in conjunction with the Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

They go out immediately. Within the windows set by various stations as permitted by the FCC but normally within 30 minutes or less unless threat to life or imminent danger such as tornadoes, etc, which go out immediately.

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

Most of our EAS is weather related. Amber procedures are in the planning process now. This will be managed by the Vermont State Police. AMBER Alerts are now in effect via EAS.

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

Radio, TV and cable outlets.

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

An average of 20 to 30 times mostly in the summer for thunder storms.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Unknown

7. What are some problems with the system?

At times the phone pairs that go to the stations fail. Occasionally there are operational/equipment issues at origination site.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Yes, WBXN Boston. Also, Vermont Public Radio monitors satellite feed from NPR in Washington which can also relay EAN.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Currently there is no official redundancy for EAS that I know of other than multiple sources to monitor.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Vermont Emergency Management uses Sage-Endec EAS boxes at their origination point. There are dedicated phone lines (5K) to each LP1. I do not know what these costs are.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Rob Schell, Vermont Emergency Management, 800 347 0488

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, in draft form - http://170.222.24.9/vem/EAS_PLAN_vt.PDF

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No, Not at the present time

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No, not that I am aware of.

Virginia

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

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Local messages (i.e. weather and local EAS) in the Richmond, Hampton Roads, No VA Area, and Roanoke are turned around within minutes by most stations. Activation statewide from drills is fairly successful with good turn around times in the larger markets

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

Nuclear power plant tests and warnings, Civil Emergencies, and EAS.

Amber is administrated by the Virginia State Police and integrated into the EAS through VDEM

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

Mainly the old EBS "Bucket brigade" method of using broadcasters. Plan to also use Virginia News Network Satellite, but that hasn't happened yet. Also requested that faxes and e-mails be used.

EM Net as well. We are hoping to add more stations to the receiver list as money is found.

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

State level, never....local level very often with weather warnings (TOR and FFW)

State level test (RMT) as a drill during "Tornado Awareness Month" yearly

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Probably about 8 of 18

7. What are some problems with the system?

Getting broadcasters to buy into the system as a real public service. Technical problems of system and broadcasters equipment.

Also, the plan has been in place for some time and I feel broadcasters have let it fall to the back burner for awareness. With stations being automated more, the care to get the message out with follow up information is not there.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

State entry point is co-located with the PEP WRXL Richmond

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

Virginia uses the traditional "bucket brigade" method of passing messages as set up by the FCC. We also have EMnet to satellite feed the LP-1 and some selected other stations in the Commonwealth.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

I am not sure of the cost but believe it was covered by a grant the VA Department of Emergency Management agency received.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Currently, I don't believe one person knows how it all comes together due to personnel shifts. I can be the first point of contact for now until we get a better handle on the areas.

Paxton Durham, WVTF Public Radio, 540-989-8900, jpd@vt.edu.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, we have an "Official" site and try to keep the data correct. Currently we are updating the plan.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

Not at this time

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

For EAS there is nothing in the plan at this time.

Washington

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

The Washington State Division of Emergency Management (“EMD”) working with the State Emergency Communication Committee.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Whether issued by the EMD or a local emergency management agency, they are transmitted instantly from the originator to all broadcast and cable entities simultaneously as soon as the agency has determined that a need to issue the activation is justified.

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

The EAS is used to issue AMBER Alerts. The National Weather Service is fully integrated into the Washington EAS. NWS receives all activations of EAS and retransmits them via the Weather Radio system. NWS is also an originator for weather-related activations. Stations include in their monitoring assignments their nearest Weather Radio transmitter.

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

The EMD delivers statewide messages via the State Relay Network (“SRN”), which is an interconnected system using the Washington State Patrol’s microwave relay system of 17 mountaintop transmitters that reach every area of the state. The EMD can selectively activate one or more of the transmitters to target a specific geographic area for an EAS message in the event that a local emergency management agency cannot initiate a local alert itself. Every local emergency management agency in Washington (all 39 counties and some additional locations) has EAS encoder/decoder equipment that allows it to transmit a local EAS message to stations within the Local EAS Area. This is done via a “Local Relay Network” (“LRN”) which simultaneously transmits the message to every broadcast station and cable system. Washington does not use the “daisy-chain” system of EAS message distribution.

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

We do not have figures for the number of activations. Most are weather-related and AMBER Alerts.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Local plans are in place for all but one or two Local EAS Areas.

7. What are some problems with the system?

Audio quality has been a problem because the SRN and LRNs use two-way radio technology. The EMD is in the process of changing to an IP-based system that will also include CAP which will eliminate the audio problem and add features for TV stations that the current system cannot accommodate. Turnover at emergency management agencies and lack of training have led to mistaken activations, errors in tests, etc.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

The PEP station is KIRO-AM, Seattle, a 50,000 watt station. The state entry point is the EMD, located just south of Tacoma, WA, which can monitor KIRO-AM. It is connected automatically to the SRN. The monitoring assignments for Washington stations include KIRO-AM where it can be received with good signal quality. Elsewhere, the SRN is a required monitor assignment. A participating NPR station is also monitored by the EMD for redundancy.

9. Is redundancy built into your state’s EAS and, if so, how?

The National Weather Service NOAA Weather Radio is completely tied into the EAS distribution system. NWS receives all statewide alerts and automatically rebroadcasts them on NOAA Weather Radio. The State of Washington has also added the My States USA to its emergency information distribution system and is currently working with stations to develop an IP delivery system for EAS.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

The current technology utilized is the State Patrol's statewide microwave relay system, using a dedicated law enforcement frequency. The acquisition cost of the equipment for the St. Patrol to put the EAS state relay network on the Patrol's system was \$25,000 in 1980. Each station was required to purchase a receiver that would be connected to its EAS (then EBS) receiver at a cost of about \$200 at most (again in 1981). My States USA is has a number of different uses and its cost for EAS is not broken out.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

Don Miller, Manager, Telecommunications & Warning Systems, Washington State Military Department, Division of Emergency Management d.miller@emd.wa.gov

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes. www.wsab.org

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No. We anticipate that with the adoption and implementation of the "common alerting protocol "CAP") we will be able to deliver messages in the specific languages in which a station may be broadcasting and will work toward adding that feature as soon as CAP-enabled EAS equipment is available.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No. We anticipate that with the adoption and implementation of the "common alerting protocol "CAP") we will be able to deliver visual messages for television and enhanced audio messages for radio (more geographically specific and with far more detail) which will provide this critical information to the blind and deaf. We will work toward adding that feature as soon as CAP-enabled EAS equipment is available.

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

Wisconsin Emergency Management

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Weather warnings are simulcast on SR stations. State EAS should be minutes, end-to-end, if ever needed.

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

Tornado Warnings are originated on NWR, and carried by most LP's. Amber Alerts will start very soon, and will use EAS. They will also be distributed by Wisconsin Public Radio Network.

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

Wisconsin Public Radio Network

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

Only for weather at local level and Amber Alert.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

About 3 or 4.

7. What are some problems with the system?

We should have more redundancy for dissemination of State EAS messages other than just one FM SR station in each area. Hopefully CAP messaging and FEMA's Next Generation EAS Network will provide more paths for EAS at the state/local level.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

State Network Entry Point tries to monitor WLS, Chicago, but poor signal. Instead, monitors the NPR network National EAS Channel. We are SUPPOSED to be getting our own PEP in Wisconsin, but no funding is forthcoming I am told.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

EAS Weather Alerts are disseminated simultaneously on both NOAA Weather Radio and our SR Stations - so there is redundancy there. The State EAS Network is a fiber ring, so there is multiple delivery path there. However, State EAS messages and Amber Alerts are only disseminated through the SR stations - so that is a single point of failure in each EAS Area. We could use more redundancy in this respect.

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Our State EAS uses the State of Wisconsin's new fiber network to deliver the State EAS messages to our FM SR Station network, so it was paid for by tax money.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

State EAS Chair, Gary Timm, Station WTMJ, 414-967-5232, gteas@sbcglobal.net.

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

Yes, at: www.sbe24.org/eas. There is also a link on the FCC's EAS website.

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No, but we are investigating what other states are doing. We have a message in now with Pat Roberts of Florida to see how they are doing it. The new EAS Rules mandating CAP messages should help address this issue in all states.

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No special plans at this time, but hoping CAP messaging can help alleviate this problem.

Wyoming

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

Wyoming Homeland Security is the primary governmental agency responsible for implementing the plan.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Immediately

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

Amber was implemented in the year 2003. NWS uses the system for weather related emergencies and warnings.

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

The messages are delivered to a local area emergency operations center, then to our LP1 Stations and then to broadcast stations and cable systems.

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

Not sure.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Wyoming Homeland Security is the primary governmental agency responsible for implementing the plan.

7. What are some problems with the system?

The original problems before correcting them, was that many of our stations could not pick up the signal of the LP1. We have corrected all of those problems because of the use of our new NOAA towers and our Public Radio Stations. Both of those signals now have statewide reach. They were a huge help in filling the void for stations who couldn't pick up the LP1 for their area.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which? If your state entry point(s) can NOT monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

Not sure.

9. Is redundancy built into your state's EAS and, if so, how?

I'm sorry; I'm not sure what this is.....

10. What technology does your state EAS utilize and what did it cost?

Just standard EAS equipment.

11. Who can be contacted for technical information about your state's EAS?

We don't have anyone....

12. Can a copy of your state EAS Plan be accessed on the Internet?

www.wyomingbroadcasting.org

13. Does your state EAS plan make special provisions for non English speaking audiences, and if so, what?

No

14. Does your state EAS plan provide special accommodations for people with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, and if so, what?

No