Report from Subcommittee on Government to Media to the Public Communications and Safety Working Group of the Media Security and Reliability Council

May 28, 2003

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Media Security and Reliability Council charged the Public Communications and Safety Working Group with studying methods of "ensuring consistent, reliable, and accurate communication among the media, government, and the public when a public safety emergency is declared."

To effectuate this mission, the Public Communications and Safety Working Group met on June 25, 2003 and broke into four subcommittees:

(1) Media to Media,
(2) Government to Media,
(3) Government to Public, and
(4) Media to Public.

The Subcommittee on Government to Media's primary focus was "the means by which the government and the media communicate emergency and public safety information to the general population." The subcommittee decided quickly that more data was needed about the status of the existing Emergency Alert System. The subcommittee decided to focus its agenda first on what is needed to make EAS fully operational as the initial step toward giving the nation an effective emergency warning system. The discussion of potential EAS enhancements, expansions or replacements was set aside for subsequent study.

Chaired by Ann Arnold, the subcommittee grew to 24 members[1] representing a broad cross-section of government, media and non-governmental organizations concerned about the success with which the government delivers emergency warnings to the public. The subcommittee held 12 meetings in a nine month period deliberating on how government disseminates emergency information to media and how that process could be improved.

To compile the needed information about the status of EAS throughout the nation at the state and federal levels, the subcommittee conducted a nationwide survey of state EAS systems. To review the study and attempt to reach consensus on what needs to be done the committee hosted a federal meeting in Washington, D.C., on February 21, 2003.

[1] See Appendix I for Members of the Subcommittee on Government to Media

State Survey

The nationwide EAS survey was conducted from January to April 2003.[2] The subcommittee compiled results from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and subsequently issued an 86 page document.[3]

SECC Chairpersons were asked to respond to the following nine questions.

1. What governmental entity is primarily responsible for implementing the plan?
2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?
3. What additional use is made of EAS? (Amber? NWS? Other uses?)
4. What is the method of delivery? (How are EAS messages disseminated?)
5. How often has EAS been activated in your state?
6. How many Local Plans have been developed?
7. What are some problems with system?
8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which?
9. If your state entry point(s) cannot monitor a PEP station, can your state entry point(s) monitor a station that in turn monitors a PEP station?

The purpose of the survey was multi-pronged.

First, the survey provided an outlet for broader participation in the process. State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) chairpersons, state broadcast associations and cable operators were given opportunities to comment.

Second, the survey provided invaluable information to subcommittee members, government officials and an array of individuals interested in emergency warning operations. Field data from the various respondents concerning dissemination methods, common problems, usage data and government involvement were collected. By comparing and contrasting this information, the subcommittee was able to compile a list of successes and failures and make recommendations for improvement of EAS.

Third, the survey provided a reference point for emerging innovative ways of expanding capabilities across the nation and improving the system. The survey highlighted, for example, that California is using an Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS), an advanced digital tool that allows California's emergency managers to alert and inform the news media and the public. EDIS is like a combination of a website, newswire and 24-hour broadcast service. Authorized agencies release text, pictures and sounds over EDIS using their own existing information networks.

Finally, survey results prompted other organizations to join the subcommittee's discussion about particular EAS problems and emergency warning in general. The Primary Entry Point Advisory Committee (PEPAC), for example, utilized data collected from the survey to make recommendations for improving Primary Entry Point (PEP) operations.[4]

[2] See Appendix II for the State Survey Results Summary
[3] See Appendix III for entire survey results
[4] See Appendix IV for PEPAC response to state survey

The Primary Entry Point Advisory Committee coordinates efforts of 33 radio stations that are intended to be a method of last resort for the President of the United States to communicate with the public in the event of a national emergency. The stations were chosen during Cold War days (under the old Broadcast Station Protection Program) based on coverage, distance from known nuclear targets and cooperation of station management.

Despite vast changes in the ensuing four decades, those 33 PEP stations are expected to cover the entire nation. That assumption may be reasonable during nighttime hours, presuming all other radio stations are off the air. How effective the PEP system would be in communicating with the American public during daytime hours is less certain. (Most PEP stations are on the AM band; Hawaii uses an Emergency Operations Center.)

The system is tested regularly by closed circuit, but there has never been an actual on-air test, according to the PEP Advisory Committee. In past years the PEP Advisory Committee has sought approval to increase the number of stations, but there has never been sufficient interest or funding. An example, of the lack of interest in such issues was the almost overlooked decision during the Clinton Administration to cut emergency phone links to the major national networks as a measure to save the cost of the phone lines. PEPAC has attempted to expand its potential coverage through an agreement with National Public Radio (NPR).

NPR can augment distribution of national emergency information by forwarding federal alerts from a PEP station via the NPR satellite cue channel. Arrangements must be made at a local level, however, for specific NPR affiliates to carry PEP alerts.

Federal Meeting

The subcommittee brought together key stakeholders at a national meeting held in Washington, D.C. on February 21, 2003 in what many believe was an unprecedented collaboration among interested parties and key government agencies involved in EAS.

Thirty-three individuals were present at the meeting, including key representatives from the following:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency,
- National Weather Service,
- Federal Communications Commission,
- Homeland Security Department,
- Society of Broadcast Engineers,
- Partnership for Public Warning,
- National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations,
- National Association of Broadcasters,
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children,
- first responders and equipment manufacturers.

The Subcommittee on Government to Media reviewed the tentative state EAS survey results at this meeting. The results provided a springboard for much of the discussion with the lack of any clearly defined federal leadership role in EAS as the major topic of discussion.

Some of the key agreements reached at the meeting include the following findings:

- Federal leadership is the missing key to an effective program.
- Coordination among federal and local emergency agencies and broadcasters is lacking.
- National reliance on only 34 primary entry point stations to reach an expected 99 percent of the population is unrealistic and contains many deficiencies.
- EAS units need to be upgraded to accommodate new codes approved by the FCC in 2002.

Report

The subcommittee's initial recommendations are incorporated in the report from the Public Communications and Safety Working Group. Further work is needed to implement those recommendations. MSRC approval of the recommendations is vital. Additionally, an assertive program needs to be agreed upon and implemented to make sure those recommendations come to fruition.

The subcommittee concluded that there are four basic issues fundamental to the health and effectiveness of EAS:

1. Putting someone in charge of EAS at the federal and state level
2. Getting all state and local plans operative and up to date.
3. Improving access to EAS entry points by and EAS training for local emergency personnel.
4. Upgrading all installed EAS equipment with new codes approved by the FCC in 2002.

Appendix I

Members of the Subcommittee on Government to Media

Chair

Ann Arnold	Texas Association of Broadcasters

Members

Jan Andrews	National Public Radio
Leslie C. Bauer	Radio One
Keith Cocozza	Time Warner Cable
Susan Crawford	Federal Communications Commission
Mark Erstling	Association of Public Television Stations
Tom Fitzpatrick	Giuliani Partners
Clay Freinwald	Entercom
Jim Gabbert	State EAS Coordinator, California
Pat Griffis	Microsoft
David Goodfriend	Echostar
Frank Lucia	Federal Communications Commission (Retired)
Andre Mendes	Public Broadcasting System
Skip Pizzi	Microsoft
Bill Press	Telemundo
Timothy Putprush	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Pat Roberts	Florida Association of Broadcasters
Richard Rudman	Partnership for Public Warning
Janina Sajka	American Foundation for the Blind
Mike Starling	National Public Radio
Lonna Thompson	Association of Public Television Stations
Dr. Peter Ward	Partnership for Public Warning
Bud Weiser	Cell Alert Group
Lynn Yeager	Time Warner Cable

Appendix II

State Survey Results – Summary

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

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

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

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

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

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

7. What are some problems with the system?

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

- NOTABLE QUOTES:

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

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

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

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

- NOTABLE QUOTE:

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

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

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

<u>TYPICAL QUOTE:</u>

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

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

<u>NOTABLE QUOTES:</u>

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix III

State Survey – Full Results

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 your 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 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 funds 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?

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

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 satelitte 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 your 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 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?

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

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 your 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 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?

No, None.

Arkansas

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

Arkansas Emergency Management Agency

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

Immediate.

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

Amber, Morgan Nick Alert, NWS

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

Satellite delivery to towers around the state.

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

No idea

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

6 local plans for the Amber

7. **What are some problems with system?**

No major problems.

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

Need more info.

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: First activated state-wide through Amber is summer of 2002. Within minutes, messages were disseminated. There were some failures and not everything was perfect. Text messaging was simulcast also for the stations that were not able to understand the state broadcast. 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: First used in August of 2002. All EAS activations have rendered a 100% return rate. NWS uses. 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)

Two different ways: Terrestrial microwave and digital test-based messaging through satellite. VOIP is the ultimate goal. Satellite and web-based technologies allow for audio and graphical images to be sent out. Image and audio files available now through EDIS. Utilize emergency digital information service. All 30 LPs have receiver for the EDIS. These were provided by the state. All broadcasters at a level playing. Satellite system called OASIS utilized. Operated by the state of California. All 58 counties have uplink and downlink capability. Been in place since 1992. Small county may not have encoding equipment. They would call there LP1 and go through the old EAS procedures. They have the capability of using text messaging. Utilize a methodology of redundancy. This is the web of emergency alert publication.

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

State: 3 times, all Amber alters. Local: no idea how many times activated.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

23

7. What are some problems with system?

Biggest problem with EAS is the quality distribution of the audio. Getting it to broadcast quality, particularly in TV. The audio is just really bad quality. It is worst in cable because it is at the bottom of the food chain. Radio is not so bad. Good quality text is available, but audio is lacking. How to get EAS out to satellite TV viewers, too. Also, how do you alert public listening to a CD.? Can we look at ibox formats? Can we alert Sirius and XM Radio listeners that operate on a national format? These are some of the challenges that we face. There are still some areas with the Eastern Area of California monitoring California stations. They have to monitor Nevada stations because of there terrain. They can't hear who they are assigned to in this part of the state. They are working on these issues. They are reviewing the plans and applying for a grant to get new transmitters, etc.

8. Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which?
Yes. 2. KCBS is the primary, located in San Francisco. KFWB in Los Angeles is the secondary. Both of them are FM broadcasters.

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 sloe 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 sever 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 that it for granted.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

13

7. What are some problems with 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?

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.

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

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 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 your state?

Less that 5 times

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

None

7. What are some problems with 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.

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

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.

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

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

District of Columbia

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

We are multi-jurisdictional. (Actually one of the biggest challenges) DCEMA for The District, MEMA for Maryland and VA Dept of Emergency Management in Virginia

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Successful tests within the hour. Amber has only been activated once (this week) so there is not enough data to be sure of the speed of actual activations.

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

AMBER becoming more active. NWS connected at most stations.

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

Right now Telephone from the activators to the Primary stations. Other methods are being looked at.

5. How often has EAS been activated in your state?
Amber and NWS only so far.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

None...region is basically a local area

7. What are some problems with system?

Activators need to agree on centralized activation. Better more secure pathway to primary stations needs development.

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

Yes... WBAL (day only) / WIYY Baltimore.

Delaware

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

The State of Delaware, Division of Emergency Management

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

The originating station has 15 minutes to send. In an emergency they would send in less than 5 minutes. If all receiving stations carry the message immediately, the turnaround time will be from 15 minutes to 30 minutes for the message to be heard statewide.

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

Life threatening weather alerts, Amber system is nearly up and running, nuclear plant problems, chemical plant problems.

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

National EAS via monitor off air signal then relayed via EAS. State and Local EAS messages are faxed followed by telephone confirmation of receipt, then relayed via EAS system.

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

Cannot remember the last time. Except for weekly and monthly tests, there have been NO emergency activations in Delaware in the recent past.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Two, the state EAS plan and the Amber plan.

7. What are some problems with system?

Sage EAS system is difficult to use during area emergency. Complicated LCD/Menu system is difficult to learn. Infrequent use results in staff members unable to remember how to use. Detailed memos with step-by-step instructions are still mind boggling to follow because of the Sage menu system. System also works on premise that everyone is listening to the radio or watching TV and, therefore, will hear the emergency notice. That, of course, is not the case. A system proposed in the 80's which is used in some parts of Europe, turns on radio, tunes to EAS station and plays EAS message so that anyone near a radio will hear the announcement. That system developed by ARI-Blaupunkt.

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

Yes, WSTW or WRDX via special radio receiver.

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. Our State Warning Point is staffed around the clock and all of the telecommunicators 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 your DPS, our Department of Law Enforcement. The use of NWS alerting was described earlier.

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

5. 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.

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

In 2002, we at the State Warning Point are aware of more than 200 activations statewide. These were mostly weather events affecting local areas only and there may be many more that we are not aware of here in Tallahassee. Non-weather events totaled about 30 and included 20 AMBER Alerts plus some major road closing notices, boil water notices or 911 system difficulties. Only 4 of the AMBER Alerts were done on a state wide basis, all of the other activations were of a local, 1 or 2 Operational Area coverage.

7. How many Local Plans have been developed?

We have 12 Operational Areas in Florida which all have developed and submitted local area plans. In addition, one of the 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.

8. What are some problems with system?

Our problems have been mostly concerning the change 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.

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

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.

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 your 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 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 just revised the state plan at the end of 2002. The first plan was put together five years ago. 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?

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.

Hawaii

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 your 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 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?

Yes. KSSK AM and FM

Idaho

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

   State of Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   It depends on the relay but typically 5 to 20 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 your state?**

   ???

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   There are four Local Area Plans in Idaho

7. **What are some problems with system?**

   Errors in testing of system

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

   YES, KBOI AM BOISE, ID

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 about ten 45.44 MHz two-way radio base stations across the state that are used as the link to the local primary stations.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

IEMA is at the ready 24/7 to activate the 1,093 broadcast stations (and, an unknown number of cable systems) at the direction of the Governor for a state EAS level EAS 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 estimate how a CEM message would open up the system as the programming is at the station's option. Only the Presidential EAN would open up the decoders for an immediate take over.

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

The NWS maintains a nominal 28 base network of 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.

The SECC is working on an Amber Plan in which NWS becomes the distributor of Amber Alerts. The SECC, Illinois Broadcasters Association (IBA), IEMA, and Illinois State Police (IPS) are working on this as a joint effort.

The NWS 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 NWS VHF weather radio network. With the NWS path, each station can decide how they want to respond to an Amber Alert.

NWS is fully hardware and software equipped to perform the CAE alert right now. We are asking for a letter of commitment from NWS. The Governor's office took an interest in this plan. The NWS has agreed but has not responded to the letter until the NWS HQ completes a review. The Governor's office was supplied a draft press release and we are awaiting the public announcement. XNOW software link between IEMA and NWS is being installed and tested.

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

IEMA maintains a 45.44 MHz base station network across the state. About ten radio base stations are 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 your 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 have never activated the system for an emergency.

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 system?

Our state committee is alive but funding for travel to meet in Springfield would be helpful. We are working to get our state plan on the Chapter 26 SBE web site. Our state EAS plan is out of date. We had a state governor situation that changed January 2003. We need to get in cue as we are changing political parties for the first time in more that 20 years and the new Governor faces a budget debt of $5-billion.

Over the next few weeks, I am conducting a survey of Illinois Local Primary stations to assess commitment and readiness as we prepare to update the State Plan. IBA is hosting a SECC meeting June 3 and 4 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 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. Moving forward, perhaps some regional reporting scheme should be considered.

The Federal government, do to funding limitations, has done a poor job of supporting EAS. Our small PEPAC program gets 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 any recent interest in EAS since President Clinton signed the last statement of requirements in 1995. Until WHMO takes a renewed interest (or transfers it to HLD) in EAS it's a dead end program.

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?

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) and where possible the LP1/2/3's monitor WLS-AM890-PEP for a presidential alert.

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 your 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?

Indiana is divided into 12 Local Areas and broadcasters in each have developed their Local Plan. Subsequently, two LP1 stations dropped out, so Indiana has two "Interim" Local Plans with LP1 vacancies (monitoring NWS in the Interim).

7. What are some problems with 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?

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).

Iowa #1[7]

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

The planning part is Iowa broadcasters and the Iowa State Emergency Planning Division --- Iowa EMD.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Depends on what level of alert is called for. The 2 immediate uses in Iowa are Tornado Warning and Flash Flood Warning. Other needs have not yet been addressed. Amber is working and we will call for a 5 minute limit to auto pass but suspect it will be log only in some stations. The National Level is Auto Pass immediate....this is the only legislated (read-mandated) use of EAS. CAE for Amber alerts.

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

Weather warnings, CEM and Amber

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

Using Radio stations in a chain and some use of the NWS, also implementation of the Iowa State Owned fiber (ICN) as a secondary path.

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

In bad weather season quite often.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Two that I know of to date (out of 12 Operational Areas). Couple of others coming. We have one Nuclear Power plant next to a major population center that I have been involved with for many years. Planning is obviously better there.

7. What are some problems with system?

Planning is not complete. Trying to get last mile funding for the ICON (Iowa Communications Network -- Iowa fiber network) has been a hassle. The ICON can deliver 2 channels of audio anywhere in the state but only to local POP (Point of Presence) from the POP to the local stations is either a dry pair or radio link. We are trying to get this resolved. Also soon to be resolved are the PEP audio reception troubles.

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

As of this writing the LAP in Des Moines is an NPR affiliate, they have the PEP from NPR via satellite. The original plan was to monitor 810 kHz in Kansas City. With help from the Iowa Communications Network, soon we will be able to receive the Audio in SW Iowa and pipe it back to Des Moines reliably.

[7] This was the response from Iowa SECC Co-Chair Jim Davies.

Iowa #2[8]

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 your 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 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?**

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

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

   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.

[8] This was the response from Iowa SECC Co-Chair Joe Schloss..

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.

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 through Amber. They have used it three times. Never actually alerted with Amber yet. It has been tests so far. Basically, the national weather service is the only user of EAS.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   No idea.

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 we had have been addressed by a new Committee. Also, they have gotten more input from people around the state. They are also going to add the Weather Service, too.

   EAS only works if people are watching TV or listening to the radio! NWS has radios that will de-mute. They cover 95% of Kansas now. The SECC Committee has recognized this and included NWS radios in their plan. Having alerts going through government entities (NOA Weather Radio Stations) and disseminating messages is the solution to the problem. EAS needs to be through NOA weather radio so that people actually hear the alerts.

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

   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 this will help alleviate some of the problems. Kansas is going to require all stations to monitor a NPR station if they can. This will help Western Kansas.

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

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

Kentucky

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

   Kentucky Emergency Management Services, NWS, Kentucky Broadcasters, Not any single one has any authority over anyone else. Simply following the regulations of the FCC.

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   No information

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

   Amber, NWS, Typical weather information.

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

   Over-the-air reception. Simply broadcast transmissions.

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

   Regionally: a couple of times, weather related. On average five times a year.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   don't know

7. **What are some problems with system?**

   Biggest Problem is related to the terrain. We are not able to successfully complete the network because stations can not pick up other stations. Have to fine tune the system. They are in the process of updating the plan. Some of the stations can't receive stations that they are supposed to monitor.

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

   Yes. WHAS AM in Louisville Kentucky

Louisiana #1[9]

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

   There is no governmental entity primarily responsible. The Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness is semi-involved in implementing our State Plan. As State SECC Chair I wrote the plan and LOEP added them to it and got signatures with the help of the FCC office in New Orleans. There is a list of authorized activators of the EAS such as the Governor, included in the plan. *www.laeas.org*

   An Addendum reflecting changes will shortly be posted to the Web site.

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   That depends upon the type of emergency...in the case of the Statewide Amber Alert activation; the clearinghouse is in the North East corner of the state and is Troop F who contacts our State entry FM station via e-mail, fax, and other Troops in Baton Rouge and surrounding area. The reason for the distant Troop F in Monroe, Louisiana taking on the chore as clearing house for the Amber Alerts was because their workload was lighter than the others and they were 24/7 unlike the Baton Rouge State Police Troop. The public initiation is via 911 wherever it exists...otherwise the local law enforcement people are contacted.

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

   It is used for all possible emergencies including the New Statewide Amber Alert System Plan that is ...was in place.....until it was disclosed ex post facto of the Governor signing off on the plan.....that in the infinite wisdom of the Louisiana Legislature a law was passed in 1997 preventing a kids picture or identity from being broadcast in the media making our Statewide Amber Alert System Plan illegal. I suppose their hearts were in the right place back then. They will correct their mistake hopefully before the Amber System is needed.....so much for the Lawmakers.....

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

   The "daisy chain" has been and still is the way. I have just recently added the Louisiana Public Broadcast Satellite (Ku band) System and Network as another method to get the State EAS Network to all Local Areas of the state. It now is a parallel system to the "daisy chain". This was a drastic reclassification of LPB from NN to SR in itself.....This is because I work for LPB as IT Supervisor.....

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

   It varies but most always with tornadoes, chemical spills etc. I made the NWS one of the required monitoring assignments in the beginning.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

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

7. **What are some problems with system?**

   Where do I begin.....?

   Delivery, stupidity, false test, lack of training new people, things like commercials inadvertently included in the RMTs from the State Originating FM etc. not to mention equipment failures in the "Daisy Chain".... with all of this causing the Broadcaster to be reluctant to participate. There has even been some ego "Exclusive

[9] This is the survey response from SECC Chairmen Larry Ward.

Amber station pretenses" PSA's broadcast, which has made other Broadcasters angry. But I am the "whipping" post as they say and do what I can to take the licks... There are other problems, but "turf" wars, the worst in whatever flavor you could imagine exist in Louisiana. One silly battle was with the Amber Plan in that they wanted no adjoining states to be able to activate the Louisiana Statewide Amber Alert System, which in my opinion is practicing political isolationism. Easy for a committee of egos to forget the reason for the Plan! The Justice Department has fallen short with State "Glue" and "universal Plan" in the Federal Amber Alert System. They need to be more than a state sampling and interviewing system and should get to work and mandate the important issues which are important in saving lives! They could develop a "Homeland Security Alert System Plan" or whatever you want to call it...bottom line is that All states need to be on the same page. We are still the UNITED States aren't we?

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

Yes, we are fortunate in that WWL, a PEP station is located in New Orleans, La.

Louisiana #2[10]

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?
Yes, WWL

[10] The Louisiana Association of Broadcasters submitted an alternate survey response. Louise "Lou" Munson is the Executive Director of the Association.

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 your state?**

   Anywhere from 20 -50 depending on the thunderstorm season.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   0

7. **What are some problems with 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 reeducating 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?**

   No. Our closest PEP station is WBZ in Boston.

Maryland

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

The State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) is the organization officially charged by the Federal Communications Committee (FCC) to develop state and local EAS plans. The SECC Chair is appointed by the FCC has sole discretion on committee make up. There is no known published committee roster for the Maryland SECC although one probably resides at the FCC. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency does not have a copy of the SECC membership roster on file.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

There is no means to effectively measure this. Experience shows such messages are turned out immediately if they are life threatening. NWS requests for EAS activation are not automatically honored for thunderstorm warnings, watches, etc., only life threatening ones such as tornados and flash flood warnings. In some cases, flash flood warnings issued as EAS requests via NOAA Weather Radio are not honored directly as many broadcasters do not automatically relay/rebroadcast these items but handled them as "news break" items.

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

The State of Maryland Emergency Operations Plan designates EAS as a means to make local, regional, or statewide public announcements. AMBER alerts are not yet officially incorporated into the State and local EAS plans but can be disseminated using the Civil Emergency Message (CEM) event. The CEM can be issued into the EAS via NOAA Weather Radio that may be monitored by Local Primary stations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the "Agreement for Transmission of Warning Messages on NOAA Weather Radio and NOAA Weather Wire Service Systems" regarding the use of CEMs has been executed by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service.

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

In Maryland at the State and local level, the predominate method of delivery is manual using the public switched telephone network for either voice or fax delivery of an EAS message request. In a few cases, the use of RPU (remote pick up) transmitter units for audio links from emergency operations centers to broadcasters is also used. It requires manual intervention to work and it is not tied up with on-going remote broadcasts.

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

There is no way to determine this without querying the FCC. There is no means at the State EOC to make this determination under the current EAS design/reporting requirements.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

There were 12 approved local plans under the old EBS Plan for Maryland of which one was broken down into two separate local areas. It is expected these 13 local operational areas will remain the same under pending EAS plans. The last EAS Workshop for Local Operational Areas was held on Oct. 12. There were 12 approved local plans under the old EBS Plan for Maryland of which one was broken down into two separate local areas. It is expected these 13 local operational areas will remain the same under pending EAS plans. The last EAS Workshop for Local Operational Areas was held on Oct. 12.

7. What are some problems with system?

The "daisy-chain" process of relaying EAS messages puts too many weak links in the system. Any EAS message that is not properly captured by a station will be rejected/not digitally recorded in EAS decoder/encoder and therefore not relayed further. There is no means to activate unattended or satellite program fed stations, only manned stations. There is concern that one or more stations relaying EAS messages in Maryland do not have emergency power further adding to the unreliability providing EAS messages out to some parts of the state. There is no easy method by which a State or local Emergency

Operations Center can document/verify in real time if a station has made an EAS activation to a given request.

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

The State entry point and the PEP station are one and the same, WBAL AM 1090.

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.

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 your 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 system?**

   Some feel that it takes to 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?**

   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.

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:

1) 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).
2) Michigan's State Primary is a 100 KW FM, located in the south central Lower Peninsula (it is nearly equi-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.
3) 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.
4) 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 your 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 train 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 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 hired 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 F.E.M.A 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?

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."

Minnesota

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

   For the Federal Govt. - FCC, FEMA, and NOAA; at the Minnesota State level, the SECC is made up of many different organizations both public and private. Govt. representation is Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, National Weather Service, Public Safety Fire, Public Safety Police, etc.
   For local plans - Minnesota is divided up into six regions. It is up to each region or local emergency communications committee to draft, get approved, and then implement a local EAS plan. This committee is made up of all EAS stake holders, which includes local emergency management, weather service, and public safety.

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   Federal EAN - Less then 5 minutes statewide to all broadcast and cable headends. Local Alerts - Data not available. Since there is a problem with local background channels, local alerting is not reliable. Therefore, turn around time can not be determined.

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

   Local regions decide on what alerting is utilized. As of today, most regions are working with their LECC on AMBER, NWS, Nuclear Power Plant events, and CEM.

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

   On a federal level - WCCO-AM St. Paul is the primary entry point station. Minnesota Public Radio is the statewide satellite relay for all EAN alerts. The required monthly test is originated at WCCO, and relayed statewide. We have total statewide broadcast and cable coverage for the federal level EAN.

   Local alerting is up to each region as to what they wish to alert and how. Broadcast stations and cable headends are encouraged to monitor and relay important local emergency alerts such as Tornado warnings and CEM. AMBER was recently implemented, and is in process of growing for entire statewide coverage. However, it has been difficult to acquire a robust distribution service that is willing to provide the needed background channel(s). No funding is provided to purchase the needed bandwidth for distribution.

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

   Less than 3 times per year average.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   Out of the Six regions, Five are implemented.

7. **What are some problems with system?**

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

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

   WCCO-AM, 830 St. Paul. Greater Minnesota relies on Minnesota Public Radio for statewide relay of the EAN

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 NOA 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 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 station sin this area.

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

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

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

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 your 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 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?

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

The state entry point does now monitor WHB, the closest PEP. The signal is acceptable daytime but not night. Unfortunately , there is likely no other station which the state entry point can monitor which will have much better results receiving WHB with normal night operating parameters. The problem is less severe should WHB have a actual alert and go to full power for it, but that is not the best solution. Our solution will be to have the Highway Patrol monitor WHB at the Lee's Summit troop HQ which is in the Kansas City area. They can then relay via their resources to the state entry point which will soon be the Highway Patrol in Jefferson City.

Montana

What governmental entity is primarily responsible for implementing the plan?

Department of Emergency Services (DES)

How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

Never statewide (There is no plan).

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

NWS. We built a separate AMBER structure based on e-mail, broadcast fax and a call out system because of the inadequacy of the EAS system.

What's the method of delivery? (how are EAS messages disseminated)

Montana has no statewide plan. My understanding is that DES did not feel it necessary and refused to work on a statewide plan. We have numerous local plans. Some work, others do not.

How often has EAS been activated in your state?

Never statewide (There is no plan).

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 thy have not been adequately tested and others don’t seem to work at all.

What are some problems with system?

False and uncalled for alerts or no alert. For example, the NWS issued a severe winter storm warning in NW Montana last September 4. The temperature was 83! The Billings Police tried to issue an alert for a six block area due to a chemical spill—instead it issued an alert for a six county area in Missoula. The local broadcasters purchased the hardware and offered to install it for the county emergency office. The county said that it would do the installation. As of today they have not only failed to install the hardware, they don’t even know where it is.

When I took this job a little more than two years ago I began touring stations across the state. One the questions I always asked was about how the EAS system worked. Initially everyone said something like "We have no problem, but Joe across town always seems to miss the test / fails to relay the test etc." What I came to believe "we have no problem" means is that "we have never been fined for missing a test" and "Joe across town is everyone" I do not believe that except in a relatively few local communities the EAS system works in Montana. Part of the problem has been the lack of leadership from the agency charged with dissemination. Part of it is the mere fact that it is an outdated, antiquated system that relies on a daisy-chain that, in Montana at least, relies on very long links, or as Senator Burns is fond of saying "there's a lot of dirt between light bulbs in Montana." WE are also a state that is bisected by the Continental Divide, which is a lot more than a geographic barrier. I am convening an engineering summit this summer where we plan to bring in several folks who have "fixed" their EAS systems (at least they claim to) in hopes of finding a solution to the impasse that currently exists.

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

Unsure

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

Unsure

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 15 minutes of origination for most radio operations. TV response time depends on each stains 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, Ia 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 your 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.

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 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?**

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

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

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. EAS plans are put together by broadcasters, for broadcasters. They are a tool we provide to our audience and the community as part of our commitment "to serve the public interest". There is no way we can make a government entity use the Emergency Alert System. We work closely with various government agencies on a federal, state and local level to make them aware of the EAS and how it works with their own emergency/disaster planning.

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   Our standard for EAS message turnarounds has been 15 minutes and I know of NO cases where it has taken more than 15 minutes for an EAS activation to occur.

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

   Nevada is currently developing a state-wide AMBER Alert Plan. We expect to have our AMBER Alert plan in use beginning July 1st. The National Weather Service offices in Reno, Las Vegas and Elko also originate EAS activations for weather emergencies.

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

   EAS messages are delivered through participating broadcasters and cable operators and the National Weather Service NOAA weather radio. Private citizens can also purchase special radios designed to pick up any activation of the Emergency Alert System.

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

   At this point I can't give you a solid figure for EAS activations in the past year--I would have to dig through my records and I know you are on a deadline. I can tell you that we have had several activations in each of our local areas in the past year for weather emergencies, including tornado (yes, tornado) warnings and flash flood warnings. The Western Nevada/Eastern California area has also had three AMBER Alert activations, with four children rescued.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   The Nevada State Plan includes three local plans--Western Nevada/Eastern California covers the area from the Eastern Sierra to Central Nevada, Southern Nevada/Inyo County, California covers Las Vegas and the surrounding area, and Eastern Nevada covers the rest of the state 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. We are now in the process of updating all three plans to reflect what we've learned since then as well as the changing demands of life Post-Sept-11th.

7. **What are some problems with system?**
   Our biggest problems have been developing a way for our extreme rural areas to receive reliable signals for monitoring. We are also in a constant education and training mode to be sure our law enforcement and public safety agencies are up to date with the role of EAS in their emergency plans.

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

   The state of Nevada is still developing a state-wide microwave relay system. We are every bit as spread-out as Texas here and about a tenth the population. In addition to our mountainous terrain--Nevada means "snow-covered"--our population centers are at the extreme southern end--Las Vegas, the north--Reno, and the East--Elko. We are currently working with the state to tap into the microwave system to allow transmission of PEP activations throughout the state. Currently, the state can monitor PEP stations in both Reno and Las Vegas. There are PEP stations outside the Reno and Las Vegas areas.

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 aren't calling it Amber here. We are developing the FCC's Child Abduction Emergency code and the NH Association of Broadcasters paid for a consulting engineer to visit each member station to upload all 21 new event codes in Sage Endecs.

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 your state?**

   Never except for NWS activations.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

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

7. **What are some problems with 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?**

   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.

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

   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.

New Mexico

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

No governmental entity has come forward to actively participate. The State Emergency Operations Center has and EAS Encoder/Decoder which is currently set up only to receive alerts. The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have EAS Encoders/Decoders which are not connected to the radio system that, when connected, will allow issuance of alerts via KKOB(AM), the State Primary and the PEP station for New Mexico.

2. How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?

EAS messages are generally immediately forwarded by New Mexico broadcasters if -- and this is a big if -- the type of Alert and the area of the Alert are properly programmed into the broadcasters' EAS equipment. Example: the State Primary Relay and LP-2 for Bernalillo county station didn't have CEM Alerts set to be forwarded until a month or so ago. This means that the State Primary Relay didn't forward any Amber Alerts since between the inception of New Mexico's program and the past month or so.

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

Amber Alerts and NWS alerts are routinely sent by KKOB (AM) if and when appropriate. New Mexico has an Amber Alert Plan a copy of which is attached.

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

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" in our studios.

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

EAS has been activated about a dozen times -- several Amber Alerts -- the rest of the alerts have all been severe weather alerts.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Operational area plans exist in a few areas. No plans at a smaller granular level exist. In the main, broadcasters have set up a working system but local potential alerting officials have not followed through well.

7. What are some problems with system?

Biggest problems with the system: the occasional broadcaster whose equipment is not set up properly and the apathetic public officials who, there having been few to no emergencies to require use of the system, have not developed and implemented meaningful plans. Example: one county emergency manager called me one day on my cell phone while I was in a McDonalds Restaurant asking if he could initiate a Civil Emergency to evacuate a northern New Mexico town due to imminent forest fire danger. While the county emergency manager and I had met just several weeks prior to set up his county's emergency EAS use planning, he hadn't "gotten around to doing anything yet." Since then he has. And yes, KKOB(AM) issued a Civil Emergency EAS Alert and the town was safely evacuated.

In order to provide a "work-around" for occasional failures in the "fan-out" one-station-monitors-another monitoring system, KKOB(AM) audio is carried on the New Mexico State Police microwave system statewide and is available at all State Police offices and other locations served by the New Mexico State Microwave System.

The New Mexico Broadcasters Association is working directly with New Mexico broadcasters to increase the efficiency of the New Mexico EAS system.

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

The State Entry Point and the New Mexico PEP station are one and the same -- KKOB(AM). The station has emergency power at its studios and offices, and has a fully-food-and-water stocked emergency program origination facility at its transmitter.

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 with in 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 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 un-heard. (#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?**
   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.

New York

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

   Four members of the SECC responsible for developing and implementing new plan. Someone from the cable side, broadcast side, State Emergency Management Organization (SEMO), and NY Public Service Commission. Want to have the state and the government more involved under the new plan. Old plan was unworkable. Maybe it was workable in 1960, but not today. Makes more sense to have government involved to take into account the fact that the majority of people view television on cable. State-wide radio network through SEMO and fiber-optic network of cable operators going to be used in this revamp of the EAS plan.

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

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

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

   Amber is used, but really only utilized in the Albany level. Really isn't developed. Can't get the signal out passed Albany. The Governor is really concerned with this. One of there concerns is to make this work better in the new plan. Want to have it revamped by the end of August 2003. NWS, also. They are entirely "un-innovative," Mike Fennity said.

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 your state?**

   Statewide: NEVER; Local: don't know, but no more than 4 or 5 times a year in Syracuse.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   None that have come for approval, but some committees have worked on this.

7. **What are some problems with system?**

   Biggest problem is that it doesn't work real well on the local level. Works better if there was a national alert. Problem with unmanned facilities. Broadcasters aren't passing things along as they should. They are so unhappy that they are revamping the entire plan. Wanting to utilize the state radio network rather than broadcasters. Replaced EBS with another daisy-chain system. SEMO radio system will be used more often under the new state plan. Goal is to get a radio network to get message out because they are more often manned. Too many local areas. That way we can get people qualified to serve on the local committee. Expanded definition of "local" under the new plan. TODAY: Plan doesn't work very well and it is unworkable. WE are revamping the entire thing. Bringing in SEMO to help. NY State Public Service Commission is being brought in, also.

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

   No idea

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

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

   A network of State-owned microwaves & low and high -band two-radio systems the LP-1s monitor. NCDEM can bring up any radio as desired from their Operations Center in Raleigh (the capital). Alternative delivery methods are being considered.

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 system?**

   We are in need of a replacement distribution system, as the State is wanting to shut down some of the two-way systems.

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

   WPTF (AM) / WQDR (FM) serve as our PEP station. I do not know if they can monitor another PEP station

North Dakota

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

   North Dakota Division of Emergency Management

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   Weather information is typically turned around within 5 minutes. State wide test can take 1 hour to complete.

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

   Primary has been NWS, AMBER Alert is just being implemented.

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 your state?**

   Weather is about the only thing it is being used for now. It is used a lot, especially by stations that are unmanned**.**

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 system?**

   Relay of state wide messages and tests. Regional/local government training and using EAS.

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

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

Ohio

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

   SECC/ Oho 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 your 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 system?**

   Reliability of reception of over-the-air monitoring assignments

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

   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

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 a 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 your 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 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 and know 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?

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.

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

No, Our state entry point can not monitor a PEP station, nor can in monitor a station that monitors a PEP station

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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.

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

EAS has never been activated state wide. Amber may change that. It has only been operational since October 22, 2002.
Locally however, EAS has been used for civil emergencies and evacuation orders for forest fires.

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Local Plans are for the most part non-existent. Portland and Eugene have strong Local Plans. Medford and Bend have some problems. The problem is time. Time to schedule meetings with the SECC committee, local law enforcement, and local broadcasters in rural counties to get together and hammer out an agreement to use EAS in their communities, establish an LP station and a list of event to be used. Of Oregon's 36 counties, Three are not under consideration. They consist of 6100 square miles, populated by 6800 persons and two radio stations. There are five counties in the Portland Area, Three in the Bend area, Two in the Medford Area and Lane County (Eugene) that use EAS locally. That leaves 22 counties that could have a Local EAS Plan available for use.

7. What are some problems with 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?

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

Our input to the state relay network is in Portland Oregon at KOPB-TV.

KCBS ... This station is not listenable anywhere in Oregon.
KIRO ... on 710 KHz. Works well across Washington but the signal seems to die about 30 miles north of Portland. There is a daytime signal but the noise floor will not provide a listenable audio signal to forward. At night, forget it
KBOI-AM 670 KHz. can be heard in Eastern Oregon. Half of the area it covers in Oregon is already part of the Boise Operational Area, in Idaho. It does get as far a Pendleton but there is not any way to relay that signal all the way to Portland for relaying.

The primary reason it does not work here in Oregon is for two reasons. Mountains and Soil. Oregon has one of the poorest soils for ground conductivity of medium wave signals. 50-kilowatt stations here in Oregon have at best a 80-100 mile radius of reliable coverage. As an example KXL-AM on 750 KHz. cannot cover Eugene, 120 miles south. A 50,000-watt transmitter here in Eugene on 1120 KHz. covers only about 70 miles during the daytime hours. Oregon does not have any clear channel, non-directional 50,000-watt stations.

The other problem is mountains. The state is divided down the middle with the Cascade Mountain range. These 13,000-foot mountains pretty much stops any ground wave signals from traveling east to west or west to east.

The state is out in the cold and should get some attention. We were originally set up KOAC-AM to be a PEP station. This OPB outlet is on 550 KHz. AM and can be heard in Both Eugene and Portland. They had the short-wave receiver, antenna and generator supplied by FEMA. The receiver is now in Portland, the Antenna in Corvallis and never was KOAC given a frequency on SW to use. The only method we have nationally is to use NPR radio. This signal is inputted into the OPB Radio and Television Networks.

Oregon is a large state. 120,000 square miles cover the state with three large mountain ranges. We would like to discuss how we could convert OBP radio and television network of stations and translators that cover 35 of Oregon’s 36 counties.

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 encrypted data via the Comlab's EM-Net EAS uplink at PEMA's Command Post 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 LP-1/LP-2 facilities up linked from PEMA's command post. Note is this an encrypted secure digital signal with audio and text output!

   Secondary: PEMA audio is feed 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 your 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 system?** Lack of funding to complete the Secondary back-up EAS audio link to all LP-1 facilities.

8. **Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which?**
   Yes…but extremely poor audio quality. PEMA's command post Harrisburg, PA., monitors WBAL, Baltimore, MD. We believe the Federal 'Primary Entry Point' delivery system to each state command post should be via an encrypted digital system with a backup alternate.

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 your 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 system?**

   No response

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

   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.

South Carolina

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

   The SC Broadcasters Assoc 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?**

   Amber? Yes NWS? Yes 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.

5. **How often has EAS been activated in your 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 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

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

   Yes. WCOS-FM, Columbia, SC. This is also the State Primary as well as PEP

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 your 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 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?**

   Yes.

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. We hope to add statewide Amber alerts via the National Weather Service (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 "pre-determined" satellite space when time is available. RMTs are scheduled by broadcast relay and satellite time.

5. **How often has EAS been activated in your state?** Rarely by a broadcaster. Never by the TAB. 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 system?** Lack of full time satellite audio channel interconnects to all LP1s and LP2s. Tennessee's geography does not allow for statewide broadcast relay. Even the RMT has difficulty getting set off and falling within the satellite window for dissemination. No official "civil authority" or help from TEMA.

8. **Can the state entry point(s) monitor a PEP station? If so, which?** I assume that you mean other LPs that can monitor a PEP?) 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. To accomplish a "real" or "actual" statewide alert we would have to depend on our satellite contributor "finding" time to disseminate the alert statewide by satellite. The satellite contribution is also from our most centrally located LP-2 (State's Capitol).

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

   Our PEP station is an LP1.

Texas

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

While the state plan arguably called for the Texas Department of Public Safety/Division of Emergency Management to be responsible for implementing the Texas State Plan, and DPS/DEM was involved in its creation, the state agency has not played an active role since. DPS/DEM has never generated a required monthly test, and until recently when the Governor ordered a state AMBER plan implemented, had never taken responsibility to initiate any EAS message. The DPS/DEM has taken the position they are not responsible for notifying the public in the event of emergency or disaster.

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. Since then seven Texas cities have created local AMBER plans. 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. There have been problems with implementation. The National Weather Service uses EAS extensively, although most broadcasters have programmed their EAS units only to 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?

Texas' 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 transmission strengths of the primaries are 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 receive an RMT. As it is, two areas of the state remain dark – unable to receive an RMT or any state EAS messages.

5. How often has EAS been activated in your 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 have been occasional problems with cities interruptions issuing an EAS message with state canned information and overriding local broadcasters who were already providing the most up to date and complete information live. 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	Austin	- Dist. 15
Dallas/Ft. Worth	- Dist. 7	San Antonio	- Dist. 16
Beaumont	- Dist. 12	El Paso	- Dist. 20
Houston	- Dist. 13	Corpus Christi	- Dist. 22

7. What are some of the 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. The State of Texas has 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. Since broadcasters are not federally mandated to do so, many stations have yet to upgrade their EAS units with the new EAS event codes which include a new event code specifically for child abduction alerts, the CAE code.

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

It is possible to receive KTRH-AM Houston at the DPS in Austin, but only during the day reliably. Nighttime reception is subject to prevailing weather conditions.

Utah

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 (Rachael 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 8 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 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 Rachael (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 your state?**

   In what time period? NOAA activates it a lot, perhaps 25-30 times in 2002. Non-weather related; 4 times in 2002. (One chemical spill and 3 times regarding the Elizabeth Smart kidnapping.)

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   4

7. **What are some problems with 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 working through the mess at this time.

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. This will work a lot better.

   KALL(AM)
   KUED(TV) SAP monitors NPR's national feed.

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

Kind of...! It's not a great signal anywhere, but OK at KSL and KUED. Those that are monitoring KSL, KSL-TV or KUED-TV are OK. None of the outlying areas from Salt Lake City can monitor KALL 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.

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.

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.

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 your 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 system?**

   At times the phone pairs that go to the stations fail.

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

   Yes, WBXN Boston

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?

Don't know about a state average...Richmond and Roanoke areas are within minutes of the NOAA transmission...

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

Nuclear power plant tests and warnings, Civil Emergencies, EAS

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.

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

State level, never....local level very often with weather warnings (TOR and FFW)

6. How many Local Plans have been developed?

Probably about 8 of 18

7. What are some problems with system?

Getting broadcasters to buy into the system as a real public service. Technical problems of system and broadcasters equipment.

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

State entry point is co-located with the PEP WRXL Richmond

Washington

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

   Washington State Emergency Management Department working with the SECC.

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   I assume that you mean how long does it take a message received at the state EOC to make it out the door in the form of an EAS message. I would guess that this would be a matter of minutes. Again, please contact Don Miller for this information.

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

   The SRN via the State EOC can and does back up any local government and can therefore be the EAS entry point for them. Amber is handled on a local level...but can be 'enlarged' via the SRN and EOC. Coordination with neighboring states re. Amber and other intrastate emergencies are handled in this manner also.

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

   Washington has a State Relay Network (SRN). The input to this system is at Wa State EMD's 24/7 EOC. System consists of a microwave backbone that connects to 11 mountain top VHF radio transmitters. Coverage of the state is nearly 100%. All of the states broadcast stations are able to receive messages from the SRN.

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

   I do not have statistical information on this. Please contact Don Miller for specifics. Don is co-chair of the SECC and is the leader of EAS activity with the state.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   We have local plans for all but a couple of smaller, outlying areas of the state. This is a work in progress. Additionally work is progressing on consolidation of certain areas of Eastern Washington, around Spokane, into their Local EAS Area.

   It should be noted that Clark County Washington (across the Columbia River from Portland Oregon) is part of Oregon. Likewise the counties of Northern Idaho and portions of Western Montana and Southern BC are part of Spokane's 'Inland' EAS Area.

7. **What are some problems with system?**

   Our system works quite well. The only major improvement would be to have separate DEDICATED spectrum. Presently the SRN operates on a rarely used State Patrol police frequency where conflicts are a potential. This would require capital funding for which we have no source.

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

   Yes - KIRO-AM, Seattle. The output of the PEP is monitored at the EOC and is connected automatically to the input to the SRN. The monitoring assignments for the state include KIRO-710 where it can be heard directly. Elsewhere the SRN is a required monitor. Thereby distributing National (EAN) messages statewide. A local participating NPR station is also monitored for the same reason.

West Virginia

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

   WV Office of Emergency Services

2. **How fast are EAS messages typically turned around?**

   two minutes

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

   Both

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

   Through the national weather service

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

   Usually for weather or chemical emergencies

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**
   We are a statewide plan

7. **What are some problems with system?**

   Needing new equipment

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

   No response

Wisconsin

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 simulcasted 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 your state?**

   Only for weather at local level.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   About 3 or 4.

7. **What are some problems with system?**

   Works well.

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

   Monitors WLS, Chicago, but poor signal. Also monitors the NPR network National EAS Channel.

Wyoming

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

   Wyoming Emergency Management Agency 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 will be 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 your state?**

   Not sure.

6. **How many Local Plans have been developed?**

   I believe every county has their own local plan - 23 counties

7. **What are some problems with 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?**

   Not sure.

Appendix IV

Primary Entry Point Advisory Committee

April 3, 2003

Ms. Ann Arnold
MSRC Government to Media Subcommittee
C/o Texas Association of Broadcasters
502 East 11th Street, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Arnold:

The PEPAC board would like to submit comments for your review in hopes that you may include some or all of them in your report on EAS.

We found the EAS survey conducted by the MSRC sub-committee chaired by Ann Arnold to be very informative. We believe this is the first EAS related survey of the individual states. We are grateful to Ms. Arnold and her staff for this monumental effort. While we were not surprised by many of the comments we are concerned by the uninformed and ambiguous answers from some of the states, in particular to last question of the series, which was specific to reception of a PEP station at the respective state EOC's.

The focus of our advisory group is on the PEP portion of the EAS and unfortunately has not included any involvement with planning on the state level. Currently, PEPAC does not have the resources, funding or mandate to do so. However, the PEPAC board recognizes that the PEP program depends very heavily on properly designed and operating state plans in order to deliver an EAN to the population. From the survey, it is clear that there are a few issues, which need to be addressed.

The PEP Program

The Primary Entry Point program was a successor to the BSPP program and was intended ***only*** as a last resort method for the President of The United States to communicate with the population in a national emergency. It was not intended to replace the then in-place wired network for national level EBS alerts. Thirty-three radio broadcast stations were chosen based on their coverage, distance from known nuclear targets, and cooperation of station management. The current PEP stations will cover the entire country during nighttime hours, presuming almost all other radio stations are off the air.

The reliability of the PEP system has been demonstrated by regular closed circuit testing conducted by FEMA. Failed links are discovered by the test and corrective action is taken promptly. PEPAC has specifically made the recommendation that FEMA should modify its testing procedures to include actual on-air testing. To date, the Agency has been reluctant to adapt the "all inclusive" system testing.

The PEP advisory committee has repeatedly attempted to secure approval to increase the number of PEP stations and the additional funding that would be required. However, the federal government has been unwilling to approve or fund expansion of the system. Even if the program is expanded, it is not intended to cover the entire country. It would be designed to provide sufficient coverage so that a PEP station could be received in at least one major city in each state. Currently this is not the case.

Limited by the inability to expand the current system, PEPAC developed a relationship with National Public Radio (NPR) to increase coverage into states where no PEP station can be received. NPR agreed to place an

EAS decoder/encoder on their satellite cue channel. As a result, states that are unable to directly monitor a PEP station, can make arrangements with their local NPR affiliated radio station(s) to forward PEP messages received on their NPR satellite downlink. PEPAC's intent is to utilize NPR as an alternative source and not as a substitution for the PEP station. PEPAC encourages all states to use the NPR station link in addition to a PEP radio station.

State Plans

The PEP program depends heavily on well designed and operating state plans. Under the FCC rules, each state was to develop its own EAS plan and submit those plans to the FCC for approval. Unfortunately, little or no direction was given to the states and the Commission's staff accepted the plans apparently with out any significant or detailed review. Many state plans date back to the obsolete EBS program and were not redesigned to take advantage of the improved technology of the EAS. In many cases, the monitoring assignments are not redundant and do not take advantage of the web structure of the EAS protocol. Thus, a single station failure can cripple distribution of an alert through the state.

Conclusion

The PEPAC board believes that if a reasonable effort were made, the majority of states would have reliable PEP alert distribution. This would include the use of quality, roof mounted AM loop antennas, and the adjustment of broadcast station monitoring assignments to include NPR as a source where necessary.

We would be happy to work with any state authority that desires to improve PEP operation in their state.

Sincerely,

Mark Manuelian
President
PEPAC