

Introduction

This plan, required by the Federal Communications Commission in 47 C.F.R. §11.217, describes the organization and implementation of the State of Minnesota Emergency Alert System (EAS). It sets forth procedures for EAS Participants (broadcast, cable, wireline) and designated government officials (PSAPs) to issue messages for pending or actual emergencies.

This plan serves three basic purposes:

1. It outlines how the Governor, the National Weather Service (NWS) and authorized State/Local government entities can provide emergency messages for the state of Minnesota, in whole or in part.
2. It provides guidance to EAS Participants for the execution of alerts from all sources.
3. It outlines the framework for how emergency managers, public safety answering points (PSAP) and EAS Participants can work together to assure that Minnesota residents and residents in surrounding states can receive timely information, in an effort to protect life and property.

This plan is an addition to the FCC EAS Rules and is not meant to be a summary, in whole or in part, of those Rules. FCC Rules, Part 11, provide for the Emergency Alert System. This plan, prepared by the SECB equivalent to the State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) in cooperation with;

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC),
- National Weather Service (NWS) office in Chanhassen, Minnesota,
- Minnesota Department of Public Safety,
- State and local officials and
- EAS Participants.

Provides background data and prescribes specific procedures for EAS Participants to transmit emergency information and warnings to the public, within the EAS Participants coverage area.

Reason for a Plan

The State of Minnesota is subject to major emergencies and disasters, weather, technological and criminal, which can pose a significant threat to the health and safety of the public. The ability to provide citizens with timely emergency information is a priority of emergency managers statewide. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) developed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provides emergency information to the public via television, radio, cable systems and wire line providers.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, (IPAWS) was created by FEMA to aid in the distribution of emergency messaging to the public via the internet and mobile devices. It is intended that the EAS combined with IPAWS be capable of alerting the public reliably and effectively. This plan was written to explain who can originate EAS alerts and how and under what circumstances these alerts are distributed via the EAS and IPAWS.

OK

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Todd Krause

