KBJIWX EAS Plan

Introduction

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that provides the President with the capability to address the American people within 10 minutes during a national emergency. It also enables Federal, state, and local authorities to quickly disseminate emergency information, such as weather alerts, civil emergencies, and AMBER alerts, to the public.

The purpose of this plan is to outline the events in which the EAS may be activated. This plan aims to ensure that the EAS is used effectively and efficiently to alert and inform the public in times of emergency.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is activated for any event that poses a significant threat to life or property. This includes potentially dangerous weather situations, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, civil unrest, and other events that may jeopardize public safety. The majority of EAS alerts are initiated by the National Weather Service in response to severe weather events, but an increasing number of alerts are being sent by state, local, territorial, and tribal authorities. Once activated, the EAS can transmit emergency messages through various communication channels, such as broadcast stations, cable systems, and satellite radio and television providers, to reach as many people as possible.

The success of the EAS depends on the coordination and cooperation of federal, state, and local authorities, as well as broadcasters, cable operators, and other stakeholders. This plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of each entity and provides a framework for their collaboration in emergency situations.

Overall, the EAS is a critical tool for ensuring the safety and well-being of the American people during times of emergency, and this plan serves as a roadmap for its effective use.

EAS Codes That are Transmitted By This Station:

Originator Codes (ORG)

A. **CIV –** To be used by state and local civil authorities only.

B. **EAS –** To be used by EAS Participants to originate messages with coordination with local emergency response authorities in the rare event that there is an emergency that warrants the activation of the Emergency Alert System. Also used to originate RWT's and in some cases RMT's.

C. **PEP –** Primary Entry Point. Indicates alert originated from a station authorized by FEMA to originate national emergency alerts. In the event of a national emergency, these stations would originate EANs. Only used by FEMA and the White House.

D. **WXR –** To be used by National Weather Service Offices. Indicates that the alert originated from a NOAA Weather Radio Station. Used almost chiefly for weather alerts.

Event Codes for Events Relayed on KBJIWX

A. **EAN – Emergency Action Notification –** Issued by the President or designated federal officials to transmit a message of national importance.

B. **SVR – Severe Thunderstorm Warning –** Issued when severe thunderstorms are expected to produce wind gusts of 58 mph or higher and/or hail 1 inch in diameter or larger.

C. **TOR – Tornado Warning –** Issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar.

D. **FFW – Flash Flood Warning –** Issued for imminent or occurring flash flooding, typically due to heavy or excessive rainfall.

E. **BLU – Blue Alert –** Issued to provide the public with information about suspects who are wanted in connection with violent crimes against law enforcement officers.

F. **CAE – Child Abduction Emergency –** Issued when a child has been abducted and is believed to be in danger of serious bodily harm or death.

G. **CDW – Civil Danger Warning –** Issued for imminent or occurring situations that pose a danger to the public, such as a civil disturbance or hazardous material incident.

H. **NUW – Nuclear Power Plant Warning –** Issued for incidents at nuclear power plants that could potentially result in a release of radioactive materials.

I. **RWT – Required Weekly Test –** Issued by KBJIWX and is relayed from the monitored stations, including KNBJ (Minnesota Public Radio – State Relay), WXM99, KEC65, WWG98, WNG610, and WXL78 (National Weather Service), as well as KGEK, KTRF, KAXE, and ERN/DEER (Broadcast Stations or Cable Systems). CIV RWTs for select counties are relayed to ensure IPAWS is working. RWTs for some counties are not relayed due to the frequency of their CIV RWTs. This event code is used to ensure that the system is in good working order and that the public can receive emergency alerts in the event of an actual emergency.

J. **RMT – Required Monthly Test –** Issued monthly by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to test the functionality of the Emergency Alert System. This event code is used to ensure that the system is in good working order and that the public can receive emergency alerts in the event of an actual emergency. The test is conducted on the first Wednesday of every month, with odd months at 1:44 PM and even months at 10:44 PM. Authorities do not relay a test within 10 days of the test date, and a Required Monthly test with an EAS originator code is relayed at 1:00 AM.

K. **SPW – Shelter In Place Warning –** Issued when it is safer to remain indoors rather than evacuate during a hazardous material or radiological release. Also be used in the event of a dangerous individual pose a threat to the public, such as a wanted suspect on the run. Alert will advise individuals to stay inside and take necessary precautions to protect themselves until the situation is resolved.

L. **SQW – Snow Squall Warning –** Issued when a snow squall is expected to produce significant amounts of snow in a short period of time, resulting in hazardous driving conditions.

M. **Other alerts not listed in this document may be relayed by this station**

Monitors For KBJIWX

Main "Station Interrupt" ENDEC

	Monitor 1	Monitor 2	Monitor 3	Monitor 4	Monitor 5	Monitor 6
Callisgn:	KNBJ	WXM99	KEC65	DEER	WWG98	ENDEC 2
Frequency:	91.3 MHz	162.425 MHz	162.55 MHz	IP Radio	162.475 MHZ	AUX
Modulation:	FM	NFM	NFM	AAC	NFM	N/A
Location:	Bemidji	Bemidji	Minneapolis	Brainerd	Park Rapids	N/A

Secondary "Weather Alert" ENDEC

	Monitor 1	Monitor 2	Monitor 3	Monitor 4	Monitor 5	Monitor 6
Callisgn:	WJON-IP	KGEK	WNG610	KTRF	KAXE	WXL78
Frequency:	IP Radio	106.9 MHz	162.45 MHz	1230 KHz	91.7 MHZ	162.475 M
Modulation:	AAC	FM	NFM	AM	FM	NFM
Location:	Nationwide	Wahpeton	Waubun	Thief River	Gr. Rapids	Bismarck

CAP Alerts come from Monitor 4: DEER and from Monitor 1: WJON-IP on the Weather Alert ENDEC. These two stations are the most important stations to monitor behind KNBJ.

KBJIWX EAS Local Area

KBJIWX serves a local area that encompasses several counties in Minnesota, including Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Mahnomen, Norman, and Wadena. This area is primarily rural and includes many small towns and communities. The region is known for its abundant lakes and forests, which draw visitors for fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation. KBJIWX is an important source of emergency information for residents and visitors to the area, providing critical alerts for severe weather, civil emergencies, and other hazards that may impact the local community. With its focus on public safety, KBJIWX plays a vital role in helping to keep people informed and prepared in the event of an emergency.

Required Weekly Test (RWT)

KBJIWX conducts Required Weekly Tests that occur randomly. These tests are the only manually originated alerts and are designed to ensure that the system is in good working order. The test consists of three headers that contain the originator code of EAS, the FIPs codes of the local area (Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Mahnomen, Norman, and Wadena counties), followed by a one second pause, and three end-of-message (EOM) codes. The purpose of this test is to verify that the station is capable of receiving and broadcasting alerts, as well as to ensure that the public can receive emergency alerts in the event of an actual emergency.

KBJIWX receives and relays Required Weekly Tests (RWTs) from various monitored stations, including KNBJ (Minnesota Public Radio – State Relay), WXM99, KEC65, WWG98, WNG610, and WXL78 (National Weather Service). In addition to these stations, KBJIWX also receives RWTs from KGEK, KTRF, KAXE, and ERN/DEER (Broadcast Stations or Cable Systems). These RWTs help ensure that the Emergency Alert System is working properly and is capable of broadcasting emergency alerts to the public.

Required Weekly Tests with a CIV (Civil Authorities) originator code are an important part of ensuring that the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is working properly. At KBJIWX, we forward most CIV RWTs as they help verify that the system is capable of receiving and relaying alerts. However, we do not forward RWTs for certain Minnesota counties, including Renville, Dodge, Wright, Douglas, Fillmore, Wabasha, Rice, Steele, and Cottonwood. This is because these counties tend to send multiple CIV RWTs, and forwarding all of them would result in an excessive number of test alerts being broadcasted to the local area.

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a national alert and warning infrastructure that enables federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local authorities to quickly and efficiently issue alerts and warnings to the public during an emergency. KBJIWX closely monitors IPAWS through two main sources: ERN/DEER and WJON-IP. These sources enable KBJIWX to receive IPAWS messages in real-time and forward them to the public through EAS broadcasts. In addition, KBJIWX uses Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) radio station KNBJ as a backup source to monitor IPAWS in case of any technical issues with the primary sources. By monitoring IPAWS, KBJIWX ensures that emergency alerts are promptly broadcasted to the public in the event of an emergency.

EAS Sender IDs

EAS Sender IDs are unique codes assigned to authorized EAS participants to ensure the integrity of the EAS message. The following is a list of EAS Sender IDs used in Minnesota:

- KNBJ (State Relay) - KCRBKNBJ
- NWS WFO Grand Forks (WXM99) - KFGF/NWS
- NWS WFO Chanhassen (KEC65) - KMPX/NWS
- ERN/DEER (IP Radio) - DEER
- NWS WFO Grand Forks (WWG98) - KFGF/NWS
- Weather Alert ENDEC – WX/ENDEC
- WJON-IP – WSCN24/7
- KGEK (Broadcast/Cable System) - RADIOFM
- NWS WFO Grand Forks (WNG610) - KFGF/NWS
- KTRF (Broadcast/Cable System) - KTRF/DQ
- KAXE (Broadcast/Cable System) - KAXE
- NWS WFO Bismarck (WXL78) - KBIS/NWS

Alert Relay Priority

1. Emergency Action Notifications
2. Local Weather Alerts
3. Minnesota Civil Alerts
4. Non-local Minnesota Weather Alerts
5. Minnesota Broadcast / Cable System Originated Alerts (including RWTs)
6. Midwest Civil Alerts for select North Dakota counties
7. Nationwide relay for 911 Telephone Outage Emergencies, Child Abduction Emergencies, Radiological Hazard Warnings, Nuclear Power Plant Warnings, and Law Enforcement Warnings

Alerts serve a critical role in keeping the public informed and safe during emergencies. Emergency Action Notifications are national alerts issued by the President of the United States or designated officials in the event of a national emergency or crisis. These alerts are the most severe and urgent, and their purpose is to protect the public by providing important

information and instructions in times of emergency. EANs are designed to be broadcast on all communication systems simultaneously, and they have the highest priority in the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Examples of EANs include alerts related to nuclear or chemical disasters, acts of terrorism, or other catastrophic events that pose an imminent threat to public safety.

Local Weather Alerts are also crucial to the Bemidji area, where weather conditions can change rapidly and have a severe impact on daily life. These alerts can include tornado warnings, blizzard warnings, and flood warnings, which can pose a significant risk to public safety if not taken seriously. Minnesota Civil Alerts and Non-local Minnesota Weather Alerts are also important for Bemidji residents, as they can provide advance warning of severe weather, flooding, and other hazards. Minnesota Broadcast/Cable System Originated Alerts, including Required Monthly Tests, are important for testing the Emergency Alert System and ensuring that it is functioning properly. Finally, Midwest Civil Alerts for select North Dakota counties may be relevant for Bemidji residents, depending on their proximity to the affected areas. Overall, these alerts are crucial for protecting public safety and should be taken seriously by all residents of the Bemidji area.

KBJIWX, like many other broadcasters, receives alerts from various sources, including ERN/DEER and WJON-IP. However, since these sources are part of a nationwide relay network, they may broadcast alerts that are not relevant to the Bemidji, Minnesota listening area. Therefore, KBJIWX has implemented strict filters to ensure that only alerts that are relevant to the local area are relayed from these stations. All alerts have the same priority, but the filters are used to prevent irrelevant alerts from being broadcasted and to ensure that only the most critical alerts are relayed to the public. Alerts that are not relevant to the local area are logged but not relayed.

KBJIWX relays alerts for several types of emergencies, including 911 Telephone Outage Emergencies, Child Abduction Emergencies, Radiological Hazard Warnings, Nuclear Power Plant Warnings, and Law Enforcement Warnings, regardless of their location in the United States. The reason for this is simple: emergencies in other parts of the country could still have an impact on the Bemidji, Minnesota area. For example, in many child abductions, the children are often found in other states. Therefore, by relaying Child Abduction Emergencies from other states, KBJIWX can help increase the chances of finding missing children and reuniting them with their families. Similarly, Radiological Hazard Warnings, Nuclear Power Plant Warnings, and Law Enforcement Warnings that occur in other states could potentially have an impact on the Bemidji area, and relaying these alerts can help keep the public informed and safe.

EAS Alert Logs

KBJIWX maintains a comprehensive record of all EAS alerts received by its ENDECs. A script is used to automatically log all alerts, providing a detailed record of each alert's originator, event code, date, and time. This record is vital for compliance purposes, as it ensures that KBJIWX can demonstrate its compliance with the FCC's EAS rules and regulations. Additionally, the EAS alert logs are available for public viewing on KBJIWX's Discord server. By making these logs available to the public, KBJIWX demonstrates its commitment to transparency and accountability, allowing listeners to verify the accuracy of the alerts broadcasted by the station.