



**NATIONAL
WEATHER
SERVICE**

NWS Support and Best Practices for Non-Weather Emergency Messages over NWR

December 8, 2021

**Mike Gerber
NOAA/NWS Weather Service
Mike.Gerber@noaa.gov**



Purpose

Show how NWS supports Non-Weather Emergency Message (NWEM) dissemination



Identify best practices alerting authorities can use to ensure a timely & accurate broadcast of NWEMs over NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)



Assumptions



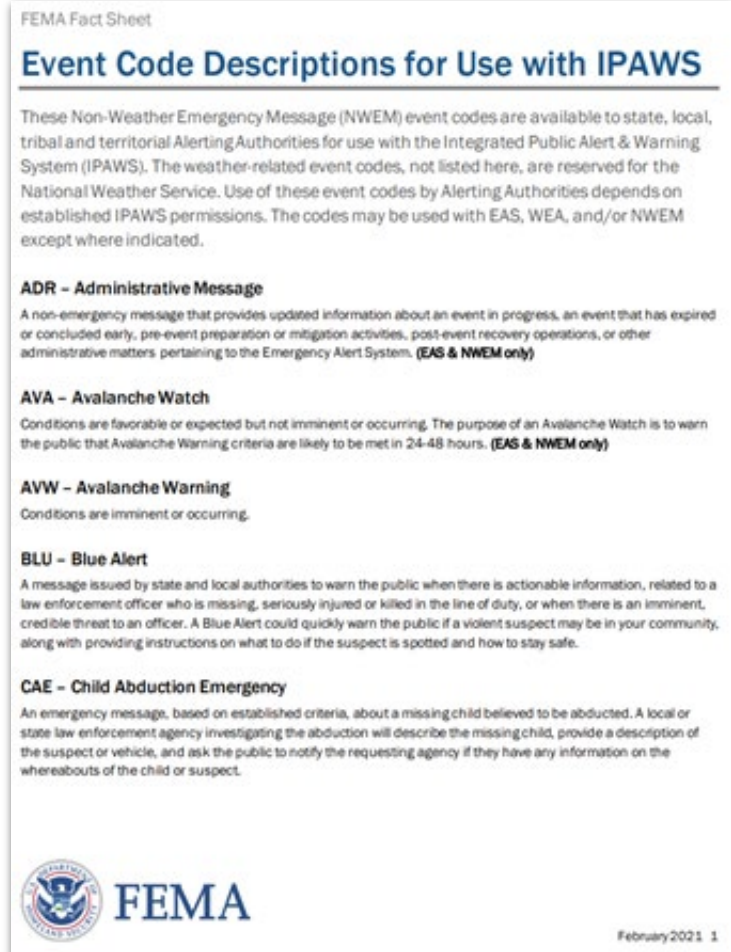
Types of NWEMs

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| ADR | Administrative Message |
| AVA | Avalanche Watch |
| AVW | Avalanche Warning |
| BLU | Blue Alert |
| CAE | Child Abduction Emergency |
| CDW | Civil Danger Warning |
| CEM | Civil Emergency Message |
| EQW | Earthquake Warning |
| EVI | Evacuation Immediate |
| FRW | Fire Warning |
| HMW | Hazardous Materials Warning |
| LAE | Local Area Emergency |
| LEW | Law Enforcement Warning |
| NUW | Nuclear Power Plant Warning |
| RHW | Radiological Hazard Warning |
| SPW | Shelter In Place Warning |
| TOE | Telephone Outage Emergency |
| VOW | Volcano Warning |
| DMO | Practice/Demo Warning |

NOTE: Some state/local EAS plans do not authorize all NWEM types and may have special rules on CAE and other alert types. Reach out to [your EAS or SECC chair](#) for more information.

See event code descriptions at

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_event-codes-glossary_02-01-2021.pdf



Assumption - Your agency has NWEM authorization from IPAWS

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system/public-safety-officials/sign-up>

FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Fact Sheet

Sign Up to Use IPAWS to Send Public Alerts and Warnings

A federal, state, local, tribal or territorial Alerting Authority that applies for authorization to use the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is designated as a **Collaborative Operating Group (COG)**. Follow these steps to obtain access to IPAWS for COG-to-COG messaging and permission to disseminate your alerts to the public.

Before beginning the below process, consult with your State IPAWS representative, typically found in the State Emergency Management Agency, for your ability to become an IPAWS alerting authority.

Step 1: Complete IPAWS Web-Based Training

- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers the independent study course IS-247, [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System for Alert Originators](#). Complete this course and submit the training certificate to the IPAWS Program Management Office at ipaws@fema.dhs.gov.
- EMI also offers course IS-251, [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System for Alerting Administrators](#). This course is required to obtain public alerting authority.

Step 2: Select IPAWS-Compatible Software

- Confirm with your potential or current software provider that they can meet your public alerting needs. Find a list of Alert Origination Software Providers (AOSP) who have demonstrated their IPAWS compatibility [on this page](#).
- Our AOSP Webinar Series includes demonstrations by some software providers. Webinars are [at this link](#).
- Acquire your IPAWS-compatible alert origination software and AOSP training before proceeding to the next step.

Step 3: Apply for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA

- Request the MOA application from the IPAWS office. Complete the application and return via email.
- You will receive an email from the IPAWS office containing your MOA for signature, public alerting application, COG Identification, COG name and additional instructions. Sign and return the MOA to the IPAWS office.
- Your MOA will be reviewed and signed by FEMA authorizing officials and returned to you. You will receive your digital certificate, and a separate email with the password. Contact your AOSP to load your digital certificate and credentials into your alert origination software.



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Sign Up to Use IPAWS to Send Public Alerts & Warnings

By completing the above steps, your organization will be able to exchange messages between COGs but is not yet able to alert the public via IPAWS. Continue with Step 4 for public alerting. These steps can be completed concurrently with the COG application.

Step 4: Apply for Public Alerting Permission

- Complete and submit the public alerting application to your designated state official (the IPAWS office will provide contact information).
- Once your state contact returns the signed public alerting application, please send it to the IPAWS office (some states' officials will send the application directly to IPAWS. Check with your state Point of Contact for guidance).
- Complete course IS-251, [IPAWS for Alerting Administrators](#). Submit your certificate of completion to the IPAWS office.

Once all these steps are completed, the IPAWS PMO will confirm you are an IPAWS Alerting Authority and enable you to send alerts to the public.

For more information visit <https://www.fema.gov/ipaws>. Contact the IPAWS Program Management Office at ipaws@fema.dhs.gov.

The Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts, to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System, and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio.

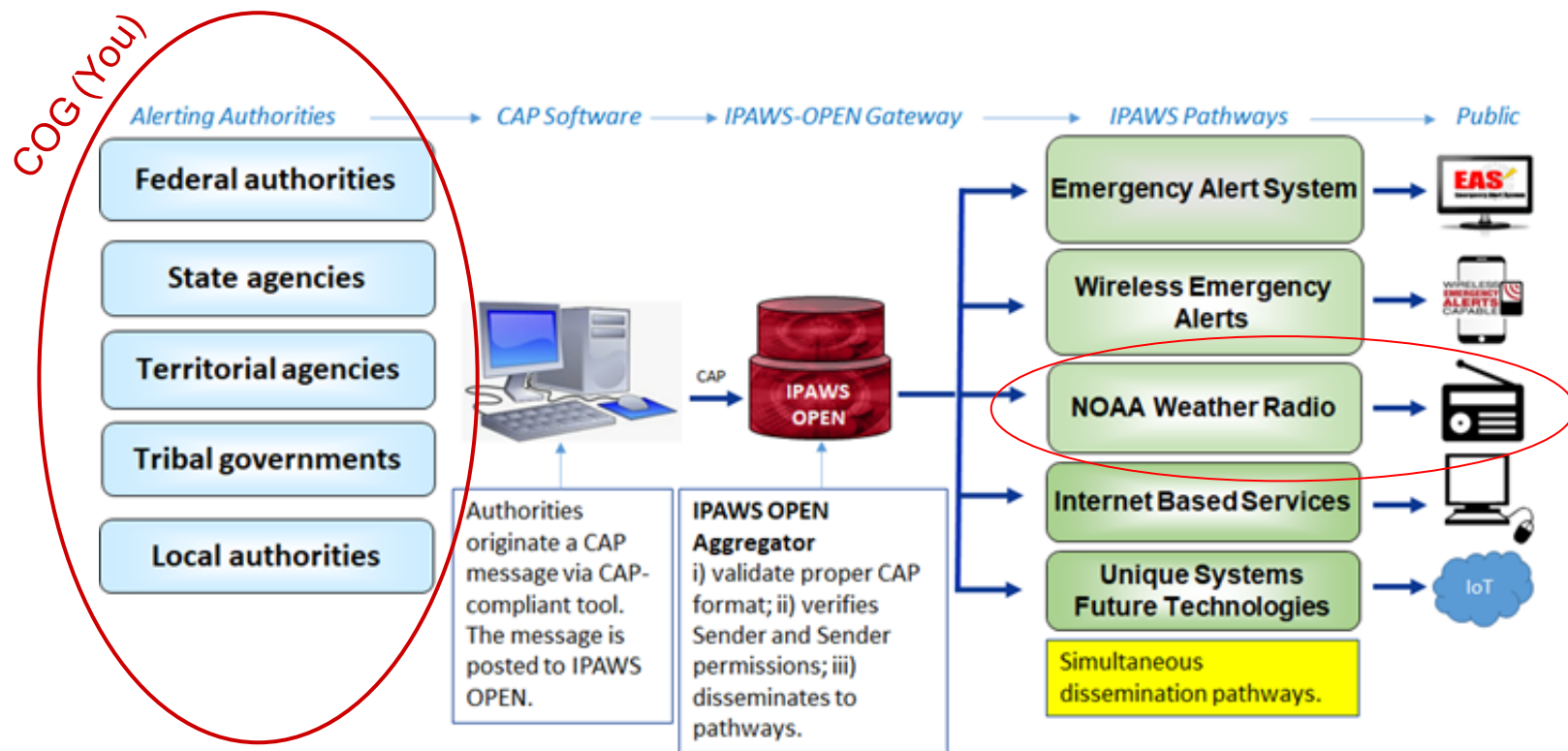
Learn more at [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

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We can't do it without you and you can't do it without us

- Once authorized by FEMA to send alerts to IPAWS, you are known as a Collaborative Operating Group (COG)
- As a COG, you have authority to send pre-approved alert types through IPAWS to NWS, EAS, WEA, and a Public Channel for all other IPAWS alert users
- Check your MOA with FEMA or [sign up to use IPAWS](#)



Assumption - The alert author selects NWEM (may instead say “HazCollect”, “NWS”, or similar) when issuing an alert

Create Public Message

Templates

Selected Template: None ?

Message Type

IPAWS-OPEN Endpoint * DEMO - COG ID: 120028 ?

EAS ☐ ?

WEA ☐ ?

NWEM ☐ ?

Hours Minutes

0 0

Approximate Expiration
2/16/21 11:03 AM

Select Alerts

EAS ☐ NWEM ☐

WEA ☐ COG ONLY ☐

EVENT CODE

CATEGORY

WEA HANDLING

Distribution Channel(s)

Select Distribution Channel(s)

☒ EMnet EAS

☒ IPAWS WEA

☒ IPAWS EAS

☒ Hazcollect

Publishing Options

Publishing Channels: ☐ Everbridge Network ☐ Alerts ☐ Web Posting ☐ Social Media

CAP Channels: ☒ Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) ☐ CAP RSS Feed

☒ Emergency Alert System (EAS)

☒ Web Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM)

☒ COG to use your station

CAP CHANNELS (WEA, EAS, NWEM, CAPEXCH)

Status: ● Available

* PIN Enter IPAWS credentials

CAP Fields

| | WEA | EAS | NWEM | CAPEXCH |
|----------------|--------|-----|------|---------|
| Message Status | Actual | * | * | * |
| Source | | * | * | * |
| Scope | Public | * | * | * |
| Restriction | | | * | * |
| Addresses | | | | * |



NWS Amplification of NWEM Dissemination



How NWS Amplifies NWEM Dissemination

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
BLUE ALERT
AL ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BIRMINGHAM AL
1157 AM CST SAT NOV 20 2021

...BLUE ALERT - LIVINGSTON... AL...

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA HAS ISSUED AN EMERGENCY BLUE ALERT. THE ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IS ASKING FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING RANDY LEE WADE. WADE IS BEING SOUGHT IN CONNECTION TO THE INJURY OF AN ALABAMA STATE TROOPER AND IS BELIEVED TO BE A SERIOUS RISK TO THE PUBLIC. WADE WAS LAST SEEN ON NOVEMBER 19TH 2021 AT APPROXIMATELY 11 45 PM AT ALABAMA HIGHWAY 28 AND I 20 59 IN LIVINGSTON ALABAMA. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE LOCATION OF RANDY LEE WADE PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AT 3 3 4 6 7 6 7 2 5 0 OR CALL 9 1 1

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NWS software automatically:

- Converts your CAP formatted alert from IPAWS to a human readable text product and relays it to hundreds of downstream redistributors and users

Local Weather Forecast Office (WFO) staff ensures alert ready for NWR broadcast and relays over NWR

- Over 1,000 NWR transmitters covering 95% of U.S.
- Time-tested reliable radio technology
- Coverage in some areas where no cell/internet service
- May be only dissemination capability available during a catastrophe (e.g. Sonoma County wildfires)



Four Things You Must Know About NWS NWEM Dissemination

1. **Quality of the NWS text product and NWR broadcast content depends on your entries in the Description & Instruction blocks AND your software's compliance with IPAWS.**
2. **WFO staff may edit the NWR version of the alert to ensure it is ready for NWR.** NWS does not edit the text product that goes out over other NWS dissemination systems.
3. **Potential for duplicate EAS activation when alert is for more than one geocode.** Single county alerts or single entire state alerts using 000 location code don't cause duplicate EAS.
4. **Coordinate with your local NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist BEFORE an emergency occurs** (see <https://www.weather.gov/media/nws/wcm-soo.pdf>) to best ensure a positive outcome and avoid any potential confusion when an emergency occurs.



NWS Actions Prior to NWR Broadcast

WFO receives notification of
NWEM received from IPAWS



WFO staff may edit alert to ensure
its NWR ready



Place alert message in NWR
broadcast suite for alert duration



Your Alert May Be Edited Prior to NWR Broadcast

Your alert may be edited by the WFO prior to NWR text to speech dissemination.

- WFO may reach back to your agency to clarify the alert prior to NWR broadcast. Note that delay in NWR broadcast may occur if your agency's response is delayed or if a high level of effort is needed to make the alert broadcast-ready. Must be suitable for NWR automated conversion from text to speech.
- According to [NWS Instruction 10-518](#), any crisis could have facets different from policy, such that policies involving the handling your NWEM may be superseded by the WFO's need to use good judgment, common sense, and need to preserve life and prevent injury.



NWS Handling of Your Alert Outlines in policies

[Policies in NWS Instruction 10-518](#), [10-1708](#), and [10-1710](#)

- WFO expected to relay your NWEM providing timely life or property-saving information.
- Any crisis could have facets different from policy, such that policy may be superseded by good judgment, common sense, and need to preserve life and prevent injury.
- **NWEM updates will be disseminated by NWS as an Administrative Message (ADR) so as not to re-alert NWR & EAS unless state plans/agreements say otherwise.**
- WFO staff maintain situational awareness of non-weather events from EMAs by phone, National Warning System (NAWAS), and other traditional methods
- Alert from IPAWS automatically sent as text product over some NWS systems without NWS review. However, **WFO staff may edit the alert prior to NWR broadcast**. See next slide.
- WFO maintains agreed upon backup procedures (e.g. fax, telephone or radio conversation, email, etc.) for relaying your alert in case of Internet, vendor, or IPAWS related problem



NWS Policies on NWR Broadcast of Your Alert

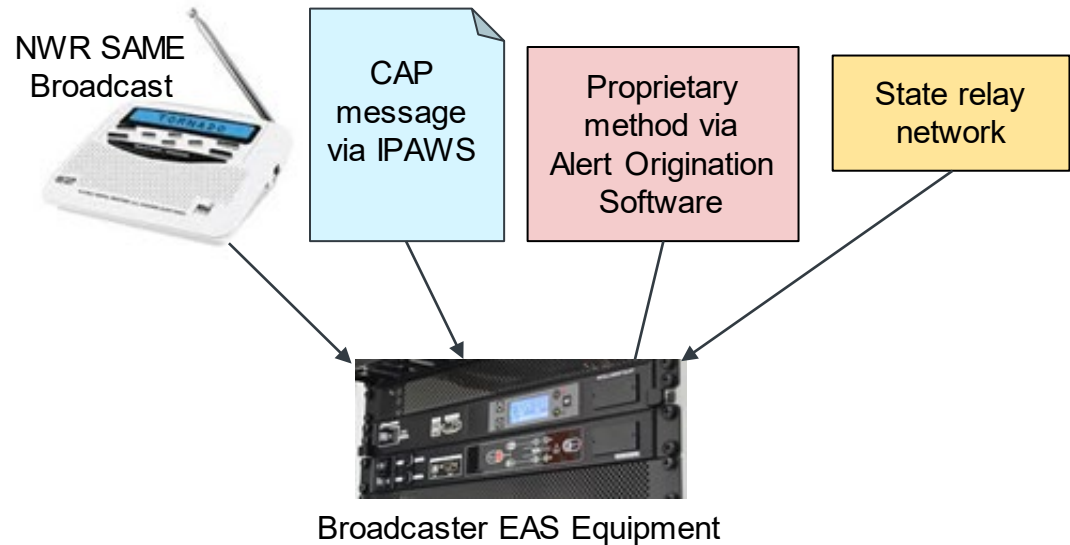
[NWSI 10-1708](#)

- WFO staff expeditiously review and may adjust your alert prior to NWR broadcast
 - Grammar, format and pronunciation corrections/adjustments necessary for broadcast
 - Adjustments to ensure intelligible NWR broadcast for relay to EAS
 - If issues with pronunciation or other aspects of automated broadcast compatibility, staff should manually record NWEM for broadcast on NWR
- Insertion of your alert (and any updates) in the appropriate NWR broadcast suite



Be Aware that Duplicate EAS Activation Could Occur

Prior to CAP, broadcasters voluntarily monitored NWR SAME which only includes location codes for the listening audience in a NWR broadcast footprint. Broadcasters also monitored NWS products via NOAA Weather Wire, news wire services, and state relay networks.



Broadcasters may still rely on NWR SAME for EAS. However, broadcasters now monitor CAP which includes all location codes in an alert. Thus, the NWR SAME and CAP location code lists for a given alert may not be identical in entirety or order. If broadcaster equipment doesn't find an identical match, then duplicate EAS activation may occur.

Recognize the Potential for Duplicate EAS

While you may not mind **duplicate EAS activation**, it may not be welcome by local broadcasters.

Alerting authorities should discuss with the local NWS WFO and address in State or Local EAS Plans.

Emergency Alert Details
A CIVIL AUTHORITY HAS ISSUED
A CHILD ABDUCTION EMERGENCY
FOR THE FOLLOWING
COUNTIES/AREAS:
New Jersey;
AT 10:46 PM
ON OCT 14, 2014

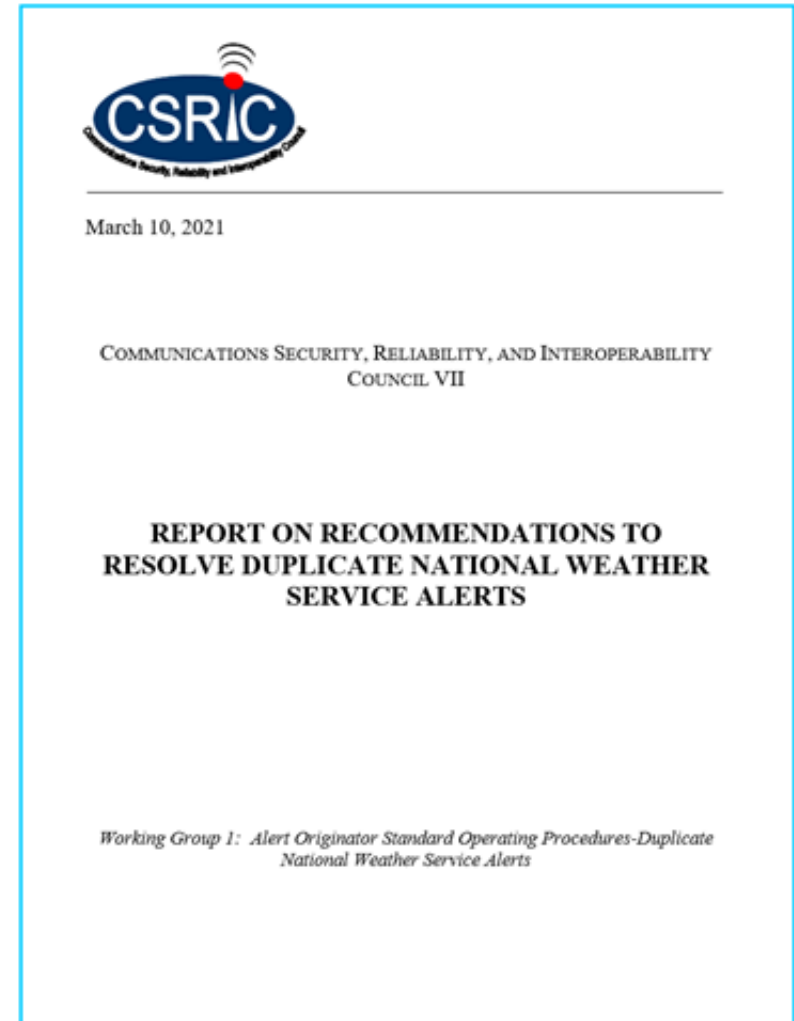
Emergency Alert Details
A CIVIL AUTHORITY HAS ISSUED
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COUNTIES/AREAS:
New Jersey;
AT 10:46 PM
ON OCT 14, 2014
EFFECTIVE UNTIL 11:46 PM.



Resolving the Duplicate EAS Issue

In March 2021 [Report to the FCC](#), a cross government/industry group recommended parallel solutions be explored to resolve the potential duplicate EAS issue

- Longer term: FCC should consider adopting EAS rules supporting an additional unique data tag in CAP and SAME that allows EAS equipment to match alerts
- Nearer term: A full analysis should be conducted on an NWS capability to perform complete and consistent ordering of SAME Location Codes in the NWR broadcast



Be Proficient and Follow Best Practices

Study of NWEMs NWS received by from IPAWS (March thru August 2021)

- 6 Cases where alert origination software vendor didn't properly populate CAP senderName with requesting agency name. Resulted in incorrect attribution.
- 8 Cases where improper vendor use of senderName caught & corrected by NWS software
- 2 Cases where NWEM not suitable for NWS dissemination because COG provided incomplete/truncated narrative in the CAP description block
- 2 Cases when COG didn't mean to send to NWEM, was "just hitting buttons"



Configuration of Alert Origination Software

Ask your alert software vendor if they properly populate the CAP <senderName> with the Requesting_Agency as recommended in the latest IPAWS Design guidance.

If not, this will cause confusion. Your agency name may not be properly cited in the alert message broadcast by NWR and transmitted over other NWS systems.

- NWS will try to catch/correct this on your behalf before NWR broadcast, but cannot correct it in the NWS text product automatically sent over other NWS systems.

```
WOU544 KMRX 032016
LEW1MRX
TNC011-032116-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
LAW ENFORCEMENT WARNING
TN CLEVELAND/BRADLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MORRISTOWN TN
316 PM EST WED FEB 3 2021

...MISSING ENDANGERED CHILD...

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF TN.

NAME: HAWKINS... AMANDA M
SEX: FEMALE
RACE: WHITE
HEIGHT:
5'00"
EYE COLOR: BROWN
WEIGHT: 130 LBS
HAIR COLOR: BROWN
DATE OF
BIRTH: 09/22/1992

SUSPECT VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: 2005 GOLD
CADILLAC STS DISPLAYING TN REGISTRATION CSY-948

CHILD
DESCRIPTION:
BELLA LENA HAWKINS
3 YEARS OLD
WHITE FEMALE
2FT
25
POUNDS
GREEN EYES
LIGHT BROWN HAIR

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A PERSON OF
INTEREST IN AN ONGOING CUSTODIAL INTERFERENCE INVESTIGATION. IF
YOU KNOW THE LOCATION OF OR HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING THE
INDIVIDUALS OF THIS MESSAGE CONTACT THE CLEVELAND POLICE
DEPARTMENT AT (423)728-7311 EXT. 0 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS SEE THE
CLEVELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES.
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CLEVELANDPOLICETN/

$$

A68EF99E-BECB-A34B-DF0A-B9F45F967C8B/BRADLEYCO
```



Enter a good Description and Instruction because they become the narrative broadcast by NWR and narrative in the NWS text product used by others.

File Tools

Choose Alert Type: **Quick Alert** | **civil emergency message** | Alert Duration: **00:15** | Choose Destinations

Areas to Alert: **FL - Brevard County**

Message Type: **Alert** | Event Category: **Safety** | Urgency: **Immediate** | Severity: **Severe** | Certainty: **Likely**

English (U.S.) | Spanish (U.S.)

URL for Additional Information:

Headline: **EAS Civil Emergency Message**

Description: **4** characters
This is a test this is a test this is a test

Mobile Short Text: 35 characters (5 more required)
This is a test of the 90 characters

Mobile Long Text: 36 characters (4 more required)
This is a test of the 360 characters

Recommended action to be taken:
This is the recommended action

Record Audio | Pre-recorded Audio

Attachments: ...\\Remote Station\\temp\\CL_011_ID7093_TM602D195A_TM5F623444_en-US.mp3 | Size: 94.1K | M:55 | 0.11

WOU544 KMRX 032016
LEW1MRX
TNC011-032116-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
LAW ENFORCEMENT WARNING
TN CLEVELAND/BRADLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CLEVELANDPOLICE/](https://www.facebook.com/clevelandpolice/n/)

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A6BEF99E-BECB-A34B-DF0A-B9F45F967C8B/BRADLEYCO



Check punctuation and avoid use of special characters

Be careful if you paste content in your alert origination software. Check for unexpected characters. In this case, question marks were somehow entered into the alert Description or produced by the alert origination software and carried over into the NWS alert.

Place a space between each digit in phone numbers. Without the spaces, NWR's text to speech engine (and perhaps those of other systems) would have read these as long numbers (i.e. "two billion five hundred fourteen thousand..." and "nine hundred eleven").

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
CHILD ABDUCTION EMERGENCY
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
342 AM CST SAT JAN 30 2021

...AMBER ALERT - ...

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

THE STATE OF HAS ISSUED A CHILD ABDUCTION EMERGENCY AMBER
ALERT. THE LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ASK FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING KAMEL
KARTER ANTOINE BLACK MALE 11 MONTHS OLD. KAMEL ANTOINE WAS SEEN ON
JANUARY 29 2021 AT APPROXIMATELY 11 P M WEARING A BLUE AND WHITE
SLEEPER WITH A RED UNDER SHIRT IN THE AREA OF DIAL STREET IN
AND IS BELIEVED TO BE IN EXTREME DANGER. THE CHILD WAS
ABDUCTED BY JAKOBIE RASHID ANTOINE. ANTOINE WAS LAST SEEN WEARING AN
ALL BLACK HOODIE BLACK JEANS AND BLACK SHOES. HE HAS A TATTOO ON
THE NECK OF CHINESE WRITING INSIDE RIGHT BICEP TATTOO ?LOYAL? AND
INSIDE LEFT BICEP TATTOO ?RESPECT? THE SUBJECTS MAY BE TRAVELING
IN A WHITE OR SILVER CHEVROLET MALIBU BEARING AN ALABAMA OR TEXAS
LICENSE PLATE. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MISSING
CHILD PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 2 5 1 4 5
2 2 2 1 1 OR CALL 9 1 1.

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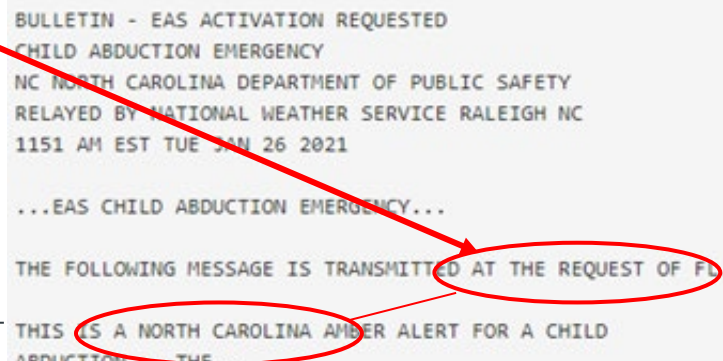
NWS NWEM Dissemination Only as Good as What You Send Us

Alert software vendor did not properly populate CAP <senderName> with requestingAgency as recommended in the latest IPAWS Design guidance

Incomplete Description makes this **alert unsuitable for NWS dissemination**. CAP message received by NWS suggests EM entered incomplete Description or a software issue.

```
<description>THIS IS A NORTH CAROLINA AMBER ALERT  
FOR A CHILD ABDUCTION....THE...</description>
```

```
WOUS42 KRAH 261651  
CAENC  
NCC000-261951-  
  
BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
CHILD ABDUCTION EMERGENCY  
NC NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC  
1151 AM EST TUE JAN 26 2021  
  
...EAS CHILD ABDUCTION EMERGENCY...  
  
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF FL.  
  
THIS IS A NORTH CAROLINA AMBER ALERT FOR A CHILD  
ABDUCTION....THE...  
  
$$  
  
NC.001_580_2021-01-26T11:51:30-05:00/NC.001_580_2021-01-26T11:51:30-05:00
```



Summary of Best Practices

Preparation:

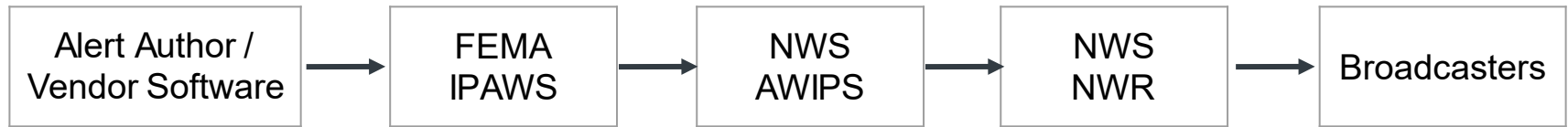
- Ask your software vendor if they properly populate Requesting_Agency in CAP <senderName> as recommended in the IPAWS Design Guidance
- Practice so you are proficient. Know the knobs. Don't wait for an emergency to happen.
- Know your State EAS Plan
- Leverage IPAWS resources

Operations:

- Select NWEM (or “HazCollect”, “NWS”, or similar) to achieve NWS (e.g. NWR) dissemination
- Enter good Description & Instruction because they make up the NWS alert narrative
- Check punctuation & avoid use of special characters
- Check for unexpected characters, particularly if pasting content in the alert software interface



If You Wish to Demo Your Alerting Capability with NWS



First, be proficient using your alert origination software. Your software vendor and IPAWS Lab can help.

Second, coordinate with your SECC and local NWS WFO about doing an end-to-end demo using DMO. DMO reduces risk of demo getting into the wild because most broadcasters only log receipt of a DMO.

Third, conduct any necessary public outreach regarding the demo.

Fourth, conduct the demo using the following procedures.

1. Populate alert origination software using values in next two slides. Software vendor can assist.
2. Selects NWEM channel and send.
3. WFO receives AWIPS red banner notification of NWEM received and awaiting action in the NWRWAVES
4. WFO reviews and adjusts DMO in NWRWAVES as necessary
5. WFO sends DMO from NWRWAVES to BMH
6. WFO transmits NWEM over NWR with SAME tones
7. Validate receipt of the alert on broadcaster EAS encoder/decoder equipment



Populate CAP Values As Follows When Testing with NWS

Your alert origination software interface should have user friendly way for you to enter these values. Consult your software provider for assistance and include them during testing if possible.

| CAP Elements and Values | Comments |
|---|--|
| <msgType>message_type</msgType> | Required. CAP Handler allowed values are Alert, Error, Update, and Cancel. For the end to end test, value should be Alert for the initial message, Update for the follow up message, and Cancel for cancellation. |
| <parameter> <valueName>BLOCKCHANNEL</valueName> <value>CMAS</value> </parameter> | Blocks WEA broadcast (to ensure test doesn't inadvertently activate WEA) |
| <parameter> <valueName>BLOCKCHANNEL</valueName> <value>EAS</value> </parameter> | Blocks EAS broadcast (to ensure test doesn't inadvertently activate EAS) |
| <event>Practice/Demo</event> | Required by CAP v1.2 Standard. Not used by CAP Handler, but use of "Practice/Demo" may help reinforce this is only a test. |
| <urgency>Past</urgency> | Required but not used by CAP Handler. This value used to ensure no WEA broadcast during testing. |
| <severity>Minor</severity> | Required but not used by CAP Handler. This value used to ensure no WEA broadcast during testing. |
| <certainty>Unlikely</certainty> | Required but not used by CAP Handler. This value used to ensure no WEA broadcast during testing. |
| <eventCode> <valueName>SAME</valueName> <value>DMO</value> </eventCode> | Required |



Populate CAP Values As Follows When Testing with NWS

continued...

| | |
|--|--|
| <expires>valid_expiration_time_in_CAP_format</expires> | Required by IPAWS Profile, EAS and CAP Handler. <expires> value must be greater than <sent> but not exceed <sent> by more than 99.5 hours. For the purpose of this test, use one hour. |
| <senderName>COG_ID,Cog_Name,Requesting_Agency</senderName> | Required by IPAWS. Text is used to identify the agency or authority issuing the alert. "Requesting Agency" is used when the message is sent on behalf of another entity (e.g., State Agency sending on behalf of a county agency). Used by CAP Handler to populate "THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE <Requesting_Agency>" or "<Cog_Name>" if <Requesting_Agency> not present. |
| <headline> THIS IS A TEST MESSAGE. THIS IS ONLY A TEST.</headline> | Required for the purpose of this test otherwise an optional field but its use is encouraged. |
| <description> THIS IS A TEST MESSAGE. THIS IS A TEST OF THE CAPABILITY TO RELAY EMERGENCY MESSAGES FROM NON-NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SOURCES USING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND NWS SYSTEMS. THIS PRACTICE/TEST MESSAGE IS NOT INTENDED TO ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.</description> | Required |
| <instruction>THIS IS A TEST MESSAGE. DO NOT TAKE ACTION BASED ON THIS TEST MESSAGE.</instruction> | Required for the purpose of this test. |
| <area> <areaDesc>your_jurisdiction_name</areaDesc> <geocode> <valueName>SAME</valueName> <value>your_county_six_digit_FIPS_code</value> </area> | Typically vendor software retrieves and populates here the FIPS code(s) you choose and your FEMA IPAWS MOA grants you permission to alert. |



Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

Reminders about the importance of communication and coordination

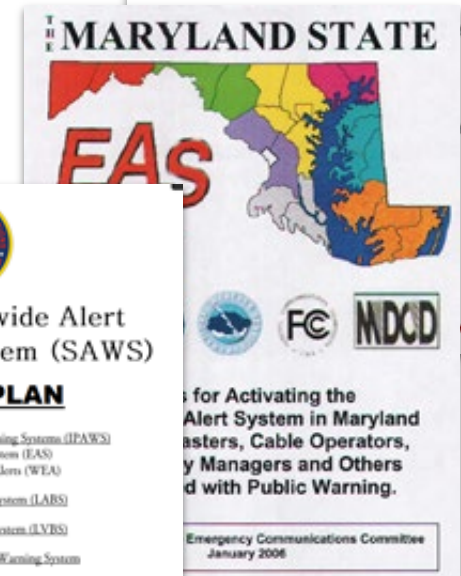
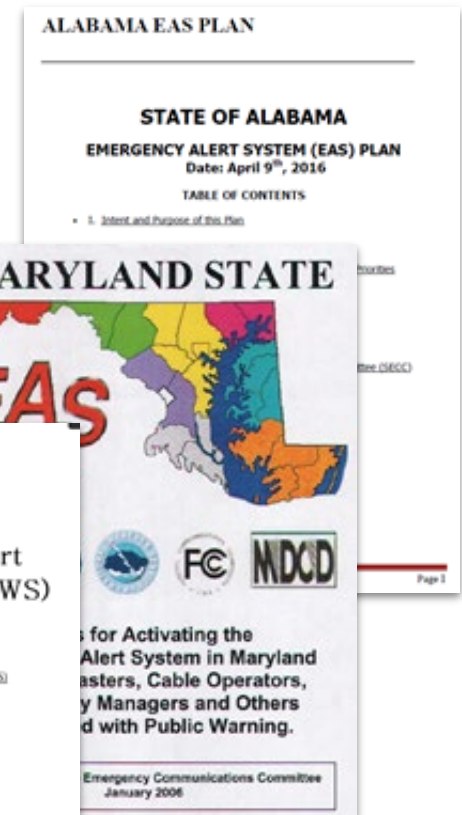
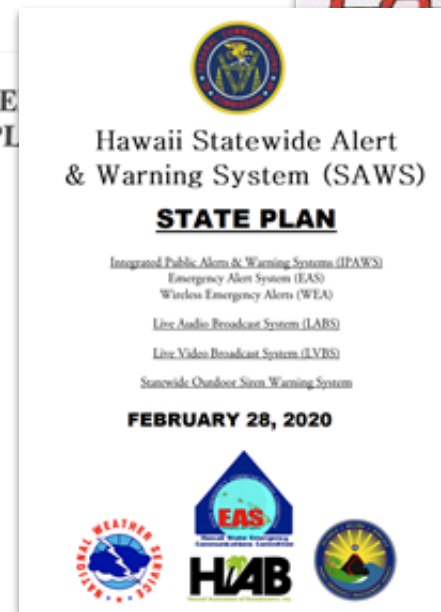
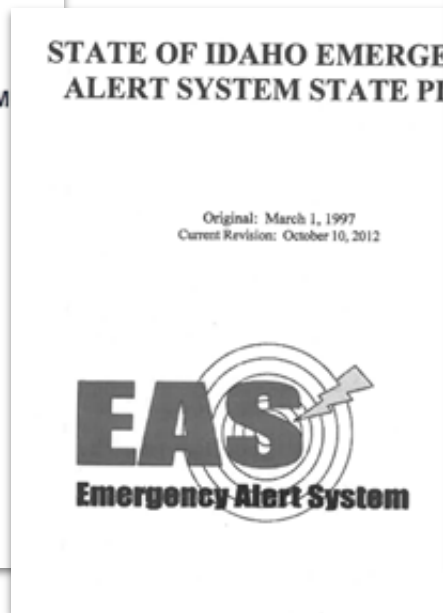
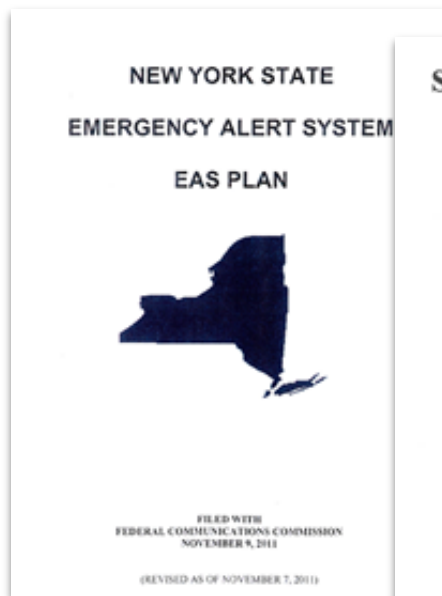
- Issues involving alert failure have often been related to miscommunication between people, misunderstanding of roles, or misunderstanding of how the various tools work
- Importance of up to date state plans/agreements. Copies of these agreements and procedures to carry out the agreements are kept in the WFO operations area.
- Coordinate with the WFO before and during an emergency to the extent possible
- NWEMs for events affecting all or a significant portion of a state should be coordinated through a single state authority such as the public health department, State EMA, tribal government, or other similar jurisdictional authority



Follow Your State EAS Plan

Be sure your practices are consistent with your [State EAS Plan & Emergency Communications Committee](#)

June 17, 2021 - [FCC Report and Order](#) encourages states to form/review existing SECCs, requires annual certification of EAS Plan, and adopts an [EAS Plan Content Checklist](#)



Questions?

