



The State now disseminates EAS messages across IPAWS-CAP, not through the State Radio Towers. Please see below the detailed Summary with the codes for your reference provided by Rick Robinson, ND Dept. of Emergency Services.

Please circulate this to all Staff members who would be involved in this process at your station/s so they are informed of all transitions and updates.

Summary:

FEMA began generating, processing and serving a Required Weekly Test (RWT) message on December 12, 2011. Test messages, issued at 11:00 AM local time each Monday utilizing the Common Alert Protocol (CAP) format, are directed to all states and are sent across the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). These log-only RWT messages serve as non-disruptive internal test messages to provide EAS participants with the opportunity to verify configuration and message connections.

The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) has upgraded their alert and warning system to reflect CAP compliance and is now conducting weekly and monthly tests (RWT/RMT) as scheduled in the 2014 EAS test schedule. This means that NDDDES no longer disseminates EAS messages across the State Radio 154.935 MHz frequency. EAS messages disseminated by NDDDES are now activated across the IPAWS system to enable geo-targeting of non-weather related alerts and warnings. Local agencies are currently beginning to submit applications for alerting authorization through IPAWS. Please ensure your emergency alert equipment is programmed to process the following EAS codes that may be utilized by State and Local authorities in the near future.

Non-Weather Event Codes:

EAS Test Codes

RWT – Required Weekly Test

RMT – Required Monthly Test

Evacuation Codes

EVI – Evacuation Immediate

SPW – Shelter In Place Warning

Emergency Codes

LAE – Local Area Emergency

CEM – Civil Emergency Message

TOE – Telephone Outage Emergency (911)

Warning Codes

CDW – Civil Danger Warning

FRW – Fire Warning

HMW – Hazardous Materials Warning
LEW – Law Enforcement Warning

In order of severity, the following codes (and what they are used for) are likely to be used by local authorities as they come online with IPAWS capability.

LAE - An emergency message that defines an event that by itself does not pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property. However, the event could escalate, contribute to other more serious events, or disrupt critical public safety services. Instructions, other than public protective actions, may be provided by authorized officials. Examples include: temporary disruption of water, electric or natural gas service, road closures preventing or delaying first responder access, or shelter locations during extreme cold or heat spells.

CEM - An emergency message regarding an imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE), but the hazard is less specific than the Civil Danger Warning (CDW). For example, the CEM could be used to describe residential areas that may be threatened by river bank erosions, bridge outages/extended closures, extended loss of utility services due to storm damages.

CDW - A warning of an event that presents a significant danger to a large civilian population. The CDW, which usually warns of a specific hazard and gives specific protective action, has a higher priority than the Civil Emergency Message (CEM). Examples include contaminated water supply, explosion hazard due to a gas line rupture, numerous downed and energized power lines, or rapid onset of an infectious disease/pandemic event. Public protective actions could include avoiding specified areas, boiling contaminated water, seek medical treatment or employing social distancing measures.

LEW – Authorized law enforcement agencies may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities due to a natural, technological or human caused events such as an active shooter incident. The warning will alert citizens to enforcement of access limitations in quarantined, isolated or evacuated areas, and warn of the arrest of violators, suspicious persons or people without authorization for access to affected areas.

Questions and/or concerns can be directed to me and I will provide you with an answer or will do the research required to answer your questions. Any additional technical guidance that broadcasters may supply to me is also greatly appreciated.

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