

**Western Nevada/Eastern
California Operational Area Plan
Of the
Nevada Emergency Alert System

Emergency Official's Plan**

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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR THE WESTERN NEVADA/EASTERN CALIFORNIA OPERATION AREA

I. PURPOSE

Radio, television and cable TV broadcasters in Western Nevada and Eastern California have agreed to participate in the Emergency Alert System, or EAS. This plan describes how local government officials and broadcasters can use radio, television and cable TV broadcast facilities to provide information, instructions and assistance to the public in a time of crisis. This plan also describes the procedures broadcasters must use to disseminate this information to the public. This plan is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated document written by the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Committee (WNECC) of the State Emergency Communications Committee for the State of Nevada (SECC).

This document is divided into three parts.

- Part One is the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Plan.
- Part Two is the Appendix, which includes specific directions for activating the EAS.
- Part Three is the Nevada State AMBER Alert Plan.

A. DEFINITIONS:

1. For the purposes of this plan, a crisis is considered to be:
 - An event, which poses an extraordinary threat to the lives, limbs or property of a group of people.
 - These events may be natural, man-caused or technological.
 - Not all such events will result in EAS activations.
2. The intent of this plan is to allow creative, innovative and thoughtful actions and solutions during a crisis, within the structure of emergency communications and operations.
3. This plan includes provisions for federal use of the EAS in the event of a national emergency. The FCC "EAS" Checklist that follows describes federal EAS policies and procedures.

B. REQUIREMENTS

- 1, All broadcasters in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area must keep a copy of this plan at their Master Control Point.
2. Each broadcaster is responsible for training their personnel in the use of the EAS.
3. Each broadcaster is responsible for maintaining additional EAS material mandated by the FCC.
4. Local Emergency Managers and Public Safety and Law Enforcement Agencies within the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area who have agreed to participate in this plan are listed in Part M, Contact Directory of the state Emergency Alert Plan.
5. Each agency is responsible for training their personnel in the use of the EAS.

II. AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

All operations of the **WESTERN NEVADA/EASTERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONAL AREA PLAN** are conducted in accordance with this plan and:

- Part 11, FCC Regulations (Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations).
- The Federal Communications Commission's EAS Checklist.
- The State of Nevada, Office of Emergency Management EAS Plan.
- The State of California, Office of Emergency Services, Emergency Plan.

NOTE:

AN EAS ACTIVATION TAKES PRIORITY OVER ANY OTHER BROADCAST AND STATION ACTIVITY IN PROGRESS AT THE TIME OF THE ACTIVATION.

EAS ALERT DUAL TONES AND DIGITAL DATA BURSTS ARE TO BE USED ONLY FOR EAS TESTS AND ACTIVATIONS.*

***FCC Commission Rules 11.45 and 73.1217**

III AREA SERVED

The WESTERN NEVADA/EASTERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONAL AREA PLAN includes the following Nevada and California Counties (includes all respective cities, towns, villages, communities and special districts):

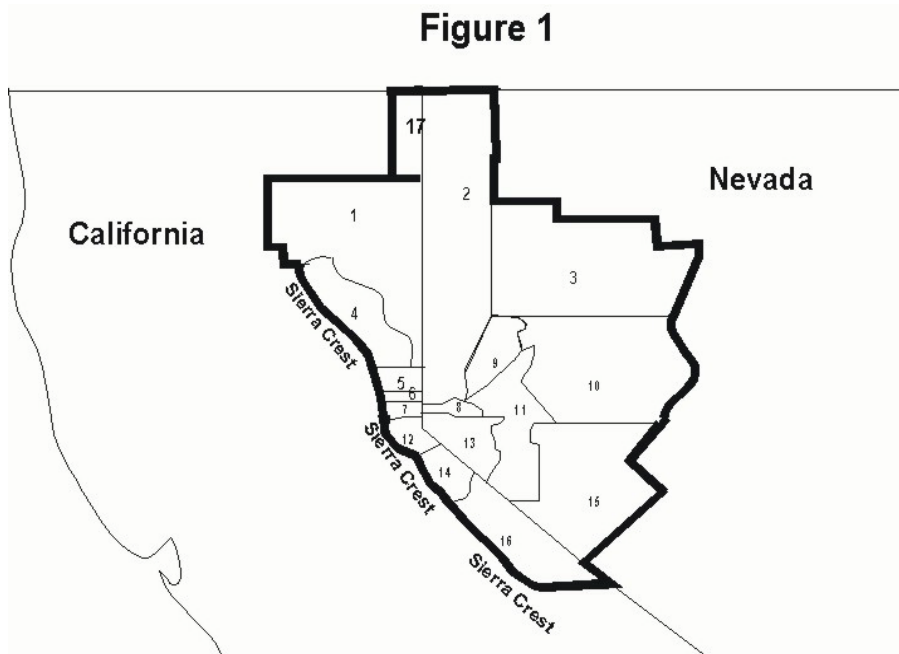
Nevada

California

- Washoe (2)
- Carson City (8)
- Douglas (13)
- Storey (9)
- Lyon (11)
- Mineral (15)
- Pershing (3)
- Churchill (10)

- Lassen (1)
- Plumas* (4)
- Sierra* (5)
- Nevada* (6)
- Placer* (7)
- El Dorado* (12)
- Alpine* (14)
- Mono (15)
- Eastern Modoc including Surprise Valley
- Northern Inyo County
 - areas east of the Sierra Nevada crest

Numbers in parentheses correspond to the county locations in Figure 1 below:



IV. PLAN DEFINITIONS

A. Attention Signal:

The standard Emergency Alert System (EAS) digital message and Dual Tone Signal as defined by FCC regulations. (See Appendix definitions)

B. LP-1, Local Primary Station:

The local station that originates the Emergency Alert System (EAS) message and broadcasts it to participating stations as outlined in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Plan. Local law enforcement and public safety agencies will contact the LP-1 station to activate the EAS. Alternate stations, which can also originate an EAS message, are designated LP-2, LP-3, etc.

1. The Local Primary 1 station for the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area is KKOH-AM. The Local Primary 2 station for the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area is KUNR-FM.
2. The Local Primary stations and all participating stations are listed in the Appendix, Part G. Station monitoring assignments are also listed in Part G.

C. EAS Message:

The information to be broadcast in an activation of the Emergency Alert System. The National Weather Service or the authorized law enforcement or public safety agency prepares the EAS message. It is not the responsibility of the LP-1 or LP-2 station to prepare the EAS message.

D. Participating Stations:

Any broadcast radio, television or cable television station which has agreed to carry EAS activations, according to this plan.

Any stations, which do NOT wish to participate in the local EAS plan, **must notify** the State Emergency Communications Committee Chair in writing. Participation in the state and local EAS is voluntary. A station's decision to participate or NOT to participate in the EAS does not affect that station's role in the Federal EAS. **Stations that chose not to participate in the EAS must still maintain and test EAS equipment.**

It is the responsibility of each participating station to familiarize and train their personnel in the use of the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area EAS Plan.

E. Relay Network:

The facilities for the transmission of EAS messages from originating government agencies or officials to the participating stations. This includes, but is NOT limited to public and private telephones and telephone networks, cellular and satellite phones, two-way radio systems, faxes, e-mail, pagers, wire services, teletypes, the Internet, and other digital systems.

V. EMERGENCIES

Western Nevada and Eastern California are susceptible to a wide variety of natural, man-caused and technological emergencies and disasters. These emergencies and disasters may occur with or without warning or time for advance planning. Some of these events include but are not limited to:

A. NATURAL DISASTERS:

1. Weather related events such as floods, flash floods, windstorms, severe thunderstorms, water spouts, tornadoes and blizzards.
2. Geologic events: mud slides, rock slides, avalanches, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes.
3. Health events: contaminated water supplies, epidemiological infections in humans or animals, other agricultural problems.
4. Wildland fires, especially those in the wildland/urban interface, and smoke from fires, which can cause dangerous travel conditions.

B. MAN-CAUSED DISASTERS:

1. Fires or explosions in residential, business or industrial areas.
2. Bombs or bomb threats in residential, business or industrial areas or schools.
3. Transportation accidents involving commercial trucks, commercial or private automobiles, commercial or general aviation aircraft, rail traffic, or pipeline problems.
4. Civil disturbances including riots, demonstrations and acts of terrorism or sabotage.
5. National emergency events including acts of aggression or terrorism against the federal, state or local governments, or private individuals or businesses, or acts of war.

C. TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS:

1. Utility system problems, including the failure or disruption of electrical, telephone, water, gas, fuel oil or sanitation systems.
2. Failure of the 9-1-1 system.
3. Hazardous materials releases, spills or accidents.
4. Nuclear or radiological releases, spills or accidents.

VI. ACTIVATIONS

A. APPROPRIATE USE OF THE EAS:

The EAS may be activated when **both** of the following criteria are met:

1. There is an **immediate** and **extraordinary** threat to life or property
2. Government, law enforcement or public safety officials decide that affected citizens should take **immediate** and **specific** protective actions.

or

3. Law enforcement officials request an AMBER Alert activation, according to the criteria set forth in the Western Nevada/Eastern California AMBER Alert plan or the Nevada State AMBER Alert Plan.

B. EAS LIMITATIONS:

1. The Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Alert System (EAS) should only be used for brief and specific messages to alert or warn the public about situations that present an immediate and extraordinary threat to life or property; and where government, law enforcement or public safety agencies want affected citizens to take immediate and specific protective actions.
 - The EAS should NOT be activated when the threat to life or property is less than immediate. Separate arrangements should be made between agencies and broadcasters when there is a need for extensive live broadcast coverage of less-threatening emergency situations.
 - EAS messages must be kept short. The digital EAS equipment cannot be activated for periods of more than two minutes. The system will “time out” after that period.
2. Participating broadcast stations should NOT activate the EAS independently. Such requests should be referred to the Local Primary 1 or Local Primary 2 station.
3. There will be regular tests of the EAS, according to the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area Plan. These tests may be accomplished in conjunction with community emergency disaster drills. In addition, state and local government officials, emergency managers, or representatives from law enforcement and public safety agencies may be asked to originate the Required

Monthly Tests. This will help familiarize these officials with the use of the EAS.

C. AUTHORIZED ACTIVATING AGENCIES:

Overall responsibility for EAS activities within each authorized jurisdiction rests with the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Committee. Individual jurisdictions are encouraged to integrate a Public Information Officer (PIO), Public Relations or Information Management specialist into the EAS public warning system. The State of Nevada Emergency Communications Committee and the Nevada Broadcasters Association can provide EAS training on request.

The following agencies have the authority to activate the EAS:

1. The National Weather Service
2. The Nevada State Division of Emergency Management
3. The State Emergency Communications Committee Chair
4. The California Office of Emergency Services
5. Command level personnel only of law enforcement or public safety agencies, in accordance with that agency's Emergency Operations Plan
6. The Emergency Manager, or designee, for each local government participating in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area Plan
7. The County or City Manager, or designee, for each local government participating in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area Plan
8. The Governor of the State of Nevada, when the emergency is determined to be of a state-wide nature
9. Other agencies and jurisdictions may request activation of the EAS through one of the above authorized agencies or officials, in accordance with the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management Communications Plan.

VII. EAS OPERATIONS

A. MESSAGE PRIORITIES

Part 11 of the FCC Regulations sets the following priorities for Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages:

1. Presidential warning messages
2. National Weather Service warnings
3. Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area emergency alert messages.
4. Nevada state emergency alert messages
5. California state emergency alert messages
6. Other National emergency alert messages

B. MESSAGE CONTENTS

Representatives of authorized agencies may request EAS activation and provide messages for transmission following the procedures listed in Appendix Part A.

Messages for activations should:

1. Identify the originating agency
2. State the nature of the emergency
3. Identify and specify the type of event, its location and affected population
4. State the time or expected duration of the emergency
5. Clearly describe the actions which affected citizens should take

C. MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION AND DISTRIBUTION

- Upon receipt of an EAS activation request, the Local Primary (LP-1 or LP-2) station should record the message provided by the

originating agency. The LP station should then activate the EAS and broadcast the message, according to the procedures outlined in the Appendix, Part D.

- If the requesting agency cannot contact the LP-1 station, or the LP-1 station is unable to activate the EAS, the requesting agency should then contact the LP-2 station.

D. MESSAGE BROADCAST

- Participating stations which receive EAS messages from a Local Primary (LP) station through the EAS monitor may assume that the messages are authentic and should be re-broadcast as quickly as possible, within fifteen (15) minutes.
- All EAS broadcasts should be conducted in accordance with the procedures set down in the Appendix Part F of this plan.
- EAS equipment may be programmed to allow EAS activation messages and tests to automatically be broadcast, or “pass-through” without station operator assistance.
- Station managers may chose to not re-broadcast an EAS activation message if the warning does not apply to the station’s area of coverage.

E. REPEAT BROADCASTS

- Participating stations should repeat the information received in the EAS message without the EAS activation tones every ten minutes within the time frame set by the requesting agency, or for no more than thirty (30) minutes after the activation, unless the message has been canceled or changed.
- Participating stations may also choose to re-broadcast the recorded EAS message in its entirety during the first thirty- (30) minutes after receipt, unless the message has been canceled or changed.
- Messages more than thirty (30) minutes old should not be rebroadcast, unless there are specific instructions to do so. The EAS activating tones will not be used for repeat messages.

- Another EAS activation should not be broadcast unless there is a major development or significant change in the emergency situation.

F. LOCAL CAPABILITIES

Individual counties and municipalities are encouraged to develop local emergency Public Information Officer capabilities to support the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area EAS.

G. STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIVATIONS

Specific procedures exist for state and federal EAS activations and operations. These procedures should be followed when the **state** or **federal** government initiates emergency activations. Federal and state procedures are listed in the Appendix, Part K.

VIII. STATION/CARRIER PARTICIPATION

A. NATIONAL EAS PARTICIPATION

All broadcasters and cable operators are **required** to participate in the National-level Emergency Alert System, per FCC Part 11.54. There are two ways to participate in the National EAS.

1. PARTICIPATING NATIONAL STATIONS:

During a National-Level Emergency Alert, “PN”, or Participating National stations and all cable operators will carry presidential messages.

2. NON-PARTICIPATING NATIONAL STATIONS:

During a National-Level Emergency Alert, “NN”, or non-participating_national stations will make an announcement about the emergency_and then **immediately sign off and cease broadcasting.**

3. ALL BROADCASTERS:

- All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly EAS test (RWT) once a week, according to their own schedule.
- All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Monthly EAS test (RMT) once a month, within sixty (60) minutes of receiving the test from the Local Primary 1 or 2 station on their EAS equipment. *
- These actions are required of all broadcasters and cable operators, regardless of their status as “PN” or “NN” stations.

*Exceptions for small cable operators are listed in FCC Part 11.61

B. STATE/REGIONAL EAS PARTICIPATION

- Participation in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Emergency Alert System (EAS) is voluntary for all broadcasters, cable television operators and other broadcast carriers. Participating stations must follow the EAS procedures in this plan.

- Those broadcasters and cable television operators who DO NOT want to participate in the State of Nevada or Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area Emergency Communications Plan **MUST** notify the State Emergency Communications Committee Chair of their decision **in writing.** **These stations must still install and maintain EAS equipment and conduct the Required Monthly and Weekly tests, per FCC Part 11.**

NOTE:

STATIONS DESIGNATED "NN" OR NON-PARTICIPATING NATIONAL, MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE AND/OR REGIONAL EAS WITHOUT ANY PRIOR FCC APPROVAL. THIS PARTICIPATION IS ALLOWED, EVEN THOUGH THE STATIONS ELECTED NOT TO CARRY NATIONAL EAS ALERTS.

C. PROGRAM CONTROL

- Broadcasters and cable television operators acceptance of/or participation in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operation area EAS does not affect program control and does not prohibit a licensee from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation.
- Broadcast stations and cable systems originating EAS emergency messages shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority for those messages.
- The FCC Rules and Regulations provide the concept of management of each broadcast station and cable system to exercise discretion regarding the broadcast of emergency information and instructions to the general public.

D. VISUAL TRANSMISSION ON TELEVISION

The FCC requires participating television stations to broadcast the specifics of emergency broadcast messages in both aural and visual form.

1. The EAS equipment will produce a written display, or "crawl" for visual display.

2. When available, TV stations may add information to the crawl. TV stations may also use the crawl to repeat information in the activation message.
3. The State Emergency Communications Committee will make available a videotape featuring the Nevada EAS logo for use during televised EAS messages.

E. NON-ENGLISH BROADCASTS

Stations that serve non-English speaking audiences may provide translations of Emergency Alert System messages and tests in their broadcast language.

F. CABLE OPERATORS AND PUBLIC TELEVISION/RADIO

Cable operators and public radio television are required to follow the guidelines of the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Plan.*

G. DIGITAL OVER-RIDE

The EAS Encoder/Decoder equipment is capable of automatically broadcasting activations and Required Monthly Tests. Radio, television and cable operators can elect to program their equipment to automatically pass through all EAS messages and monthly tests.

*Specific requirements for cable operators are listed in FCC Part 11.

H. OUTSIDE AREA ACTIVATIONS

EAS equipment can be programmed to carry only activations within a station's area of coverage. Station operators may elect to carry activations outside their coverage area, or to broadcast the information in an activation without the audible tones if the activation is for an area outside their primary area of coverage. Station operators should notify the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Committee **in writing** if they decide to limit their activations to a specific area.

IX. EAS TESTS

A. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

The following requirements for the Required Weekly Tests (RWT's) and Required Monthly Tests (RMT's) apply to all broadcasters and cable operators, including Participating National (PN) as well as Non-participating National (NN) stations, and the National Weather Service.

Stations that have elected not to participate in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Plan must still rebroadcast the local Required Monthly Test and their own Required Weekly Tests. There are two exceptions to these rules:

1. Class "D" non-commercial, educational FM stations as defined in FCC 73.506, and Low Power FM stations, as defined in FCC 73.811, and low power TV (LPTV) stations as defined in FCC 74.701(f) are not required to have an EAS Encoder.
 - a. These stations must install, maintain an EAS Decoder.
 - b. These stations are exempt from running the digital Required Weekly Test (RWT).
 - c. These stations must retransmit the Required Monthly Test (RMT), without the EAS Header Codes and Attention Signal that would be generated by an Encoder.
 - d. Low Power TV stations must present all EAS information visually.
2. Requirements for small cable system operators are listed in FCC 11.51(g).
3. FM Translator and TV Translator stations are not required to have EAS equipment. Translator operators may choose to add EAS equipment to enhance their service to communities outside their license areas. In that case, the translator operators must follow the EAS test requirements.

B. REQUIRED WEEKLY TESTS (RWT)

1. TRANSMISSION:

- These tests will use the Event Code RWT.
- All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly Test (RWT) once each week at random days and times. Broadcasters and cable operators do not need to conduct a Required Weekly Test during the week of the Required Monthly Test (RMT).
- Required Weekly Tests must be conducted on different days at different times, per FCC Part 11.61 (a) (2) (A).
- The RWT takes a minimum of ten and a half seconds, and consists of only the EAS Header and End of Message codes.
- This test does not interrupt station programming, and is audible only as a short data burst.
- Stations may elect to use the test as an opportunity to promote their involvement in EAS by adding a short message before or after the Header and End of Message codes.

2. RECEPTION:

- Broadcasters and cable operators must log all RWT's received from their monitored sources.
- The Required Weekly Tests do not have to be re-broadcast and after logging, no further action is necessary.

3. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TESTS:

- The Reno National Weather Service will transmit a RWT with audible tones every Wednesday between 10:30 am and 11:30 am.
- Required Weekly Tests from the National Weather Service must be logged but not rebroadcast.

4. SCHEDULES FOR REQUIRED WEEKLY TESTS:

- Individual station operators will set their own schedules for Required Weekly Tests on random days and times.
- Station operators should consider the benefit of training staff when scheduling Required Weekly Tests.

C. REQUIRED MONTHLY TESTS (RMT)

1. TRANSMISSION

- These tests will use the Event Code "RMT".
- All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Monthly Test (RMT) once a month, according to the schedule listed in FCC Part 11.61(v) and the Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS Operational Area Plan. Broadcasters and cable operators do not need to conduct a Required Weekly Test during the week of the Required Monthly Test (RMT).
- The RMT schedule will be published annually by the SECC committee and distributed through the Nevada Broadcasters Association.
- The SECC will use good judgment and consideration in scheduling times for the tests and avoid sending a Required Monthly Test (RMT) during periods of high revenue.
- The committee will also consider special or major events such as news programming, Presidential addresses, national entertainment awards, and major sporting events in scheduling test times.
- Scheduled tests will be developed to integrate National, State and Local Government needs.
- Broadcasters and cable operators who have a concern or complaint about the test schedule should contact the SECC
- Required Monthly Tests (RMT) will be initiated by the LP-1 station or the LP-2 station, or an approved public safety agency, or the National Weather Service.

2. RECEPTION AND RETRANSMISSION OF RMT'S:

- All broadcasters and cable operators who receive the RMT must re-transmit the test within sixty (60) minutes of receiving the test. Broadcasters and cable operators are encouraged to retransmit the RMT within fifteen (15) minutes of receiving the test.
- Daytime-only stations that receive an RMT overnight must retransmit the test within sixty (60) minutes of sign-on. The station operator must log the times the RMT was received and the time it was re-transmitted.
- Broadcast and cable managers must impress upon their staff that re-transmission of the RMT is not an option. It is a violation of FCC regulations to fail to re-transmit the RMT within sixty (60) minutes of reception. See FCC regulations 11.61(a)(1)(v).
- Station managers may prefer to set their EAS equipment to start a sixty (60) minute automatic countdown from the time the RMT is received. If the operator does not manually send the test within that time, the EAS equipment will do it automatically when the countdown ends.
- Scheduled tests will be developed to integrate National, State and Local Government needs.

NOTE:

***THE DIGITAL EAS EQUIPMENT CAN BE SET TO
AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE AND RE-TRANSMIT ALL EAS
TESTS WITH NO OPERATOR ASSISTANCE.***

3. UNSCHEDULED TESTS

- Unscheduled, unannounced and impromptu tests will be performed periodically to develop a full system capability.
- These tests will be determined by the SECC.
- Follow-up questionnaires, discussion and coordination after each test will be conducted to further enhance system capability and cooperation, and determine areas of concern.

D. TEST CODES

- 1.** The TIME-DURATION used in the EAS Header Code for all EAS tests shall be "60 MINUTES".
- 2.** The COUNTY-LOCATION codes used in the EAS Header code for all EAS tests shall conform to the following guidelines:
 - LP stations: All tests, RWT and RMT, shall include the Location Code for all counties in the Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS Operational Area.
 - Please note that the Area of Responsibility is defined by geography and does cross state lines.
 - PN and NN stations and cable operators shall retransmit the Required Monthly Test unchanged, all counties listed in the original test message Location Codes.
 - Each PN and NN station sending a RWT will use the county Location Code for the county of the broadcaster's City of License or the cable operator's Community of License.
 - Other counties in the broadcast station's or cable system's service area may be added to the list of Location Codes at the discretion of management.
- 3.** Required Weekly Test, RWT, Required Monthly Test, RMT and National Periodic Test, NPT are the only test codes to be used for routine tests of the EAS system. Unannounced, unscheduled tests will use the ADR, or Administrative, code.

X. EAS PLAN REVISION AND UPDATE

- This Plan will be reviewed annually by the SECC and the Nevada Broadcasters Association.
- The need for subsequent revisions of the Operational Area Plan will be determined by the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Committee in cooperation with the State Emergency Communications Committee, The Nevada Broadcasters Association and the Operational Area Participants.
- Requests for additions, deletions, changes and revisions must be made in writing to the SECC.
- The Authenticator List, if needed, will be revised annually. Revisions will be coordinated by the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Committee, in cooperation with the State Emergency Communications Committee, The Nevada Broadcasters Association and the Operational Area Participants
- The Appendix to the Operational Area Plan will be reviewed periodically to assure all information is correct and accurate. **It is the responsibility of each broadcaster and cable operator to advise the committee of any changes in station ownership, call letters, addresses, personnel or telephone numbers.**

XI. ORGANIZATION OF THE WESTERN NEVADA/EASTERN CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

A. EAS MISSION

The goal of the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Plan is to provide reliable and redundant methods of activating the Emergency Alert System through primary and secondary levels for each type of emergency message and test. By following this plan, broadcasters and cable operators can achieve this goal.

Under this plan, each broadcaster and cable operator will have at least three sources to monitor, the LP-1 and LP-2 stations and the NOAA weather radio. The extra back-up is necessary in Western Nevada and the Eastern Sierra where widespread power outages, phone outages and weather problems can affect broadcasters and cable operators for several hours or longer. Even back-up power sources such as generators have been known to fail from weather-related or maintenance problems. The redundancy of three monitoring sources maintains broadcasters' pledge to "serve in the public interest".

B. YOUR ROLE IN THE WESTERN NEVADA/EASTERN CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.

The Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Communications Committee sees the EAS as a growing and evolving entity. The digital EAS equipment has proven to be reliable after several years of use. When the EAS began in 1997, emergency broadcast activations under the old EBS had been historically unusual in the Western United States. Many broadcasters spent long careers with only one or two activations. That changed from the start of EAS, with the New Year's Flood of '97 in Nevada and California, when the new system was activated more than a dozen times in the first days of operation.

Due to local government operating systems and budget constraints, the basic EAS entry point for emergency activations in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational area continues to be the

telephone. There are more than four dozen public safety and law enforcement agencies within the Western Nevada/Eastern California region and almost all with separate communications and dispatch facilities. This situation is complicated by the geography of many communities, which require agencies to operate satellite communications and dispatch centers away from the main administrative offices. In addition, most agencies are operating with old communications equipment because voters are reluctant to approve higher taxes for upgraded equipment or the addition of digital EAS encoder systems to 9-1-1 dispatch centers. The EAS must be able to serve these communities within their limitations.

The problem is not limited to local governments. The state of Nevada has no dedicated statewide link similar to California's EDIS, nor are there common radio communications facilities for various law enforcement and public safety agencies. This means, in times of disasters or emergencies, officers, troopers, paramedics and firefighters are unable to effectively communicate with each other. This can hamper efforts to contain and control a disaster or emergency situation, and adversely affect public safety.

Some of these problems can be alleviated through the use of the EAS. However, effective use of the EAS depends on broadcasters and cable operators developing working relationships with state officials, law enforcement and public safety agencies so everyone is familiar with the EAS. This way, the EAS can be used to save lives and inform the public in time of need.

B. MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN NEVADA/ EASTERN CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Please contact any committee member for information on the EAS or activating the system.

Adrienne Abbott, State Emergency Communications Committee
Chair

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EAS NOTES

Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area Plan

APPENDIX

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INTRODUCTION

The Appendix to the Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS Plan contains specific instructions for activating the EAS and broadcasting the activations.

The Appendix also includes monitoring assignments for broadcasters and cable operators, a list of definitions, information on National Weather Service broadcast frequencies, a list of emergency agencies in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area and a list of broadcasters and cable operations in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area.

The Appendix is followed by the Nevada State AMBER Alert Plan.

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PART A: ORIGINATING OFFICIAL'S CHECKLIST and GUIDE

Emergency Managers, Public Safety and Law Enforcement officials will use this checklist to activate the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area Emergency Alert System, or EAS.

1. Draft your message using the EAS Message Form below. (The use of a professional Public Information Officer [PIO] is imperative.) Using this form will keep your message within the two-minute time limit.
2. Establish contact with the LP-1* by telephone, cell phone or other means.
3. Identify yourself to the station operator and request an EAS activation. Tell them who you are, the nature of the emergency and the area affected.
4. The station operator will prepare for EAS activation by following station procedures. Stand by and remain on the phone while the station operator prepares to record your emergency message.
5. When the station operator tells you the recorder is running, read the "countdown" and then the message from the Message Form. If time allows, repeat the text of the message, then give the "sign-off" line at the end of the Message Form.
6. **Do not hang up** when you have finished reading! Wait for the station operator to advise you that the message has been recorded. You will also have to give the station operator information to program the proper Event, Location and Time Codes in the EAS equipment.
7. Give the station operator a callback telephone number or make arrangements for the station operator to get updated information.
8. FAX a copy of your emergency message to the Nevada State Office of Emergency Management (for events affecting Nevada) and/or the California Office of Emergency Services (for events affecting California).

NOTE:

ALL EMERGENCY EVENTS ARE DIFFERENT, UNIQUE AND POSE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL AND THE PUBLIC. CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND SENSITIVITY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE MESSAGE CONTENT, LENGTH, PERIOD AND FREQUENCY OF THE MESSAGE.

The LP-1 station for the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area is KKOH-AM. The EAS hotline number for KKOH is 775.325.6350. The LP-2 station is KUNR-FM. The EAS hotline number for KUNR is 775.784.4880.

PART B: ORIGINATING OFFICIAL’S MESSAGE FORM

Prepare your message on this form before calling the LP-1 station. Follow the operator's instructions to record your message. DO NOT hang up until the operator confirms that your message has been recorded, the EAS equipment has been programmed and you have left a callback telephone number.

Countdown: **"Three...Two...One..."**

This is (name and agency)

There is a (state nature of the emergency)

In the Area of (state area affected)

And is Expected to Last (how long the situation will continue)

Residents Are Advised To (what people should do or not do)

Until (when emergency is over or when more information will be available)

This Is (name and agency) _____ **For The Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Alert System.**

Do not say anything else until the station operator comes back on the line. The operator will confirm that the message has been recorded and ask for information on the event, location and expected duration to program the EAS equipment. Give the operator a telephone number where you or another emergency official can be contacted for updates. If you cannot reach the LP-1 station, call the LP-2 station, etc. Primary telephone contact numbers for the LP stations are shown below:

LP-1 KKOH 775.325.6350 / LP-2 KUNR 775.784.4880

These are secure telephone lines...please do not compromise!

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WESTERN NEVADA/EASTERN CALIFORNIA EAS TEST SCHEDULE

Western Nevada/Eastern California emergency officials may be asked to originate or participate in an EAS Required Monthly Test.

(Insert annual test schedule here—copies available from the Nevada Broadcasters Association)

2003 EAS RMT SCHEDULE

<p>JANUARY 20 10:30 AM KKOH-AM STD TEST</p> <p>MARCH 13 10:30 AM WASHOE OES EMERG. PREPS</p> <p>MAY 12 10:30 AM NDF WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY</p> <p>JULY 16 10:30 AM NOAA FLASH FLOOD PREPS</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 15 10:30 AM WCSSO AMBER ALERT</p> <p>NOVEMBER 12 10:30 AM NOAA WINTER WEATHER</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 12 2:30 AM RNO NWS WINTER SAFETY</p> <p>APRIL 18 1:30 AM KUNR-FM EQ SAFETY</p> <p>JUNE 25 (night) NWS LIGHTNING SAFETY WEEK</p> <p>AUGUST 15 4:30 AM KUNR-FM STD TEST</p> <p>OCTOBER 14 2:30 AM NHP WINTER DRIVING</p> <p>DECEMBER 18 1:30 AM NV OEM STATE TEST_____</p>
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PART F: AUTHENTICATOR LIST

CODES ARE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
UNAUTHORIZED USE PROHIBITED

NOT APPLICABLE AT THIS TIME

(Codes may be instituted in the future as the need arises.)

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Codes are distributed only to the following:

- The State Emergency Communications Committee**
- Local Primary Stations**
- National Weather Service**
- Public Safety Agencies, Command Officers, Dispatch Centers**
- Nevada State Division of Emergency Management**
- Local Government Executive Management**
- Local Government Public Information Officers**
- Local Government Emergency Management Program Managers**
- California Office of Emergency Services**

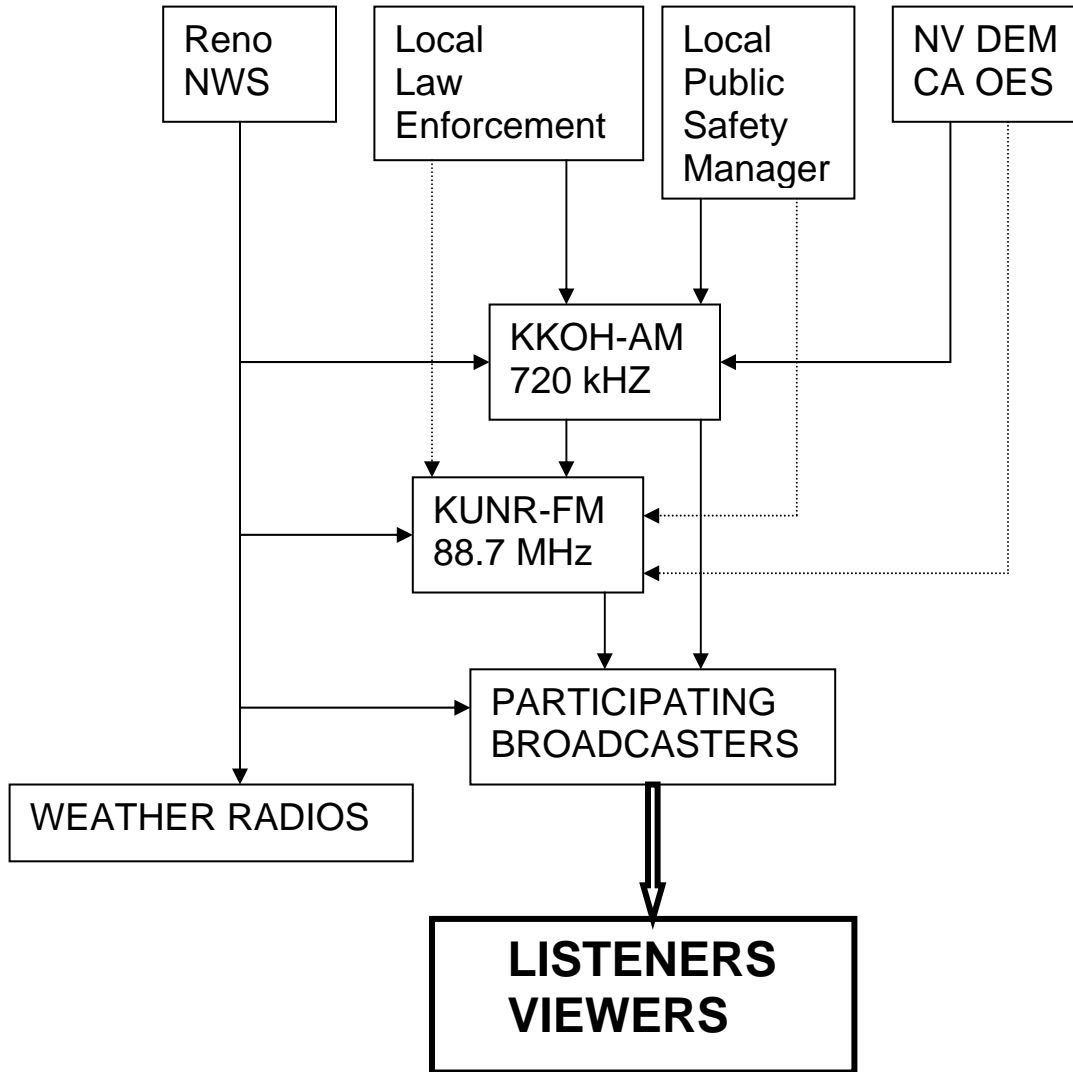
NOTE:

AUTHENTICATOR CODES should be considered confidential information. Only persons authorized in the above listing should have access to current codes.

State Office of Emergency Management maintains current lists of authenticator codes as needed.

New Codes may be issued annually **based on need.**

PART I: EAS FLOW CHART



The National Weather Service, local law enforcement, local public safety, state emergency managers decide to activate the Emergency Alert System. The information is sent to KKOH-AM, which sends the activation to all participating stations. The participating stations send the activation. If KKOH-AM is unable to make the activation, KUNR-FM makes the activation. Listeners and viewers receive the information and take the appropriate action. Weather activations are also picked up on weather radios.

PART J: STATE RELAY SYSTEMS

I. CALIFORNIA STATE RELAY

In addition to receiving EAS activations from the Local Primary stations in the Western Nevada-Eastern California Area, stations may receive EAS information from the California State Relay Network or SRN.

EAS Warnings issued by the state of California are distributed (or relayed) from a combination of the broadcast and cable monitor systems using the SRN. The California SRN is a series of computer, satellite, microwave, VHF-FM high/low and UHF-FM band radio systems owned and maintained by the State. Of these many components, the Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS) serves as the primary and the California Law Enforcement Radio System (CLERS) microwave radio system acts as the secondary. EDIS is a primary medium of the SRN because of its capabilities of carrying text, audio and images via many different yet parallel technologies.

Both can also be a primary or secondary local government EAS distribution medium as there are some CLERS base stations in sheriff and police departments throughout most of California and all Law Enforcement can send EDIS text via the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). EDIS is also available to authorized originators via secure internet access in order to send audio and image files. Other components of the SRN are the California Warning System (CALWAS) aspect of the National Warning System (NAWAS). Interconnection with other systems included in the SRN, further disseminate EAS programming.

Most broadcast stations and local government offices in California are served by at least one CLERS radio. However, all LP-1 stations in California (and KKOH in Reno Nevada) and County EOC'S have an EDIS receiver via the state's satellite system, OASIS (Operational Area Satellite Information System). Parts of the system can be, and is, used by local governments for localized warnings. EDIS is used daily for a multitude of EPI subjects. EDIS is also distributed via a digital 'packet' radio system in some parts of California. Currently none serve the Eastern Sierra counties.

The following CLERS radio frequencies serve the Eastern Sierra's:

154.710 MHz	Brockway	Truckee/Tahoe Area
155.700 MHz	Hamaker	Oregon
155.700 MHz	Likely	Modoc Co
155.700 MHz	Shaffer	Lassen Co
TBD	TBD	Inyo Co

II. NEVADA STATE RELAY

Nevada state officials are working to develop a state-wide relay system with entry points for EAS.

PART K: NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLAN

(Prepared by the Nevada Department of Emergency Management)

When a national emergency occurs, local emergency activations will be generated by the federal government in accordance with procedures outlined in the Federal Communications Commission *Local Primary Checklist*. Some use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Local Primary stations could be required. If local use is required the procedures found in the Nevada State Emergency Alert System Plan will be followed. The State Plan covers use of the EAS throughout Nevada and neighboring communities in Eastern California, Northern Arizona, Western Utah and Southern Idaho.

In the event of a national emergency, the Nevada Division of Emergency Management or the California Office of Emergency Services will issue the notification using the National Alert and Warning System (NAWAS). *A State Alert and Warning System is in place* and will allow emergency managers in Nevada or California to issue an alert in their respective states.

A national emergency would exist if the United States were in imminent danger of an act of war, terrorism, sabotage or any other act of aggression against the citizens of the United States, any political subdivision or any possession.

The Federal Response Plan will be activated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency when the President of the United States declares that a national emergency exists. The Federal Response Plan will be the document used to direct a federal response to a federally declared emergency.

The Nevada Office of Emergency Management, under the direction of the governor's authorized representative, will coordinate the state's response to the emergency

Federal agencies, as directed by the federal response plan, will work with Nevada's emergency management agencies to insure that the public is provided accurate information through the Emergency Alert System.

KKOH-AM 720 kHz, KUNR-FM, 88.7, Reno and KNPR-FM, Las Vegas, are the Primary Entry Point stations in Nevada. These stations would automatically activate the National Emergency Alert System in the event of a national emergency. The LP-1 Stations monitor the PEP stations and will activate the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area EAS for any National Emergency Alert System activations received by the PEP stations. Participating stations in the Emergency Alert System network would then receive and broadcast the PEP activation.

In the event of a Presidential activation, new revisions from the FCC allows stations to carry Presidential Emergency Messages broadcast through their networks. This revision comes in response to concerns about the broadcast quality of any Presidential messages that might lose audio quality after being relayed through the EAS equipment.

The existence of a national emergency can be verified by contacting the State of Nevada Duty Officer at (775) 687-4240, during normal business hours, or at (775) 688-2830 after hours and on weekends.

The industry entities voluntarily participating in the national level EAS are:

(a) Radio Networks.

ABC, Associated Press (APR), CBS, CNN, Jones Satellite Audio, Moody Broadcasting Network, Mutual Broadcasting System (MBS), MUZAK, NBC, National Public (NPR), Unistar, United Press International (UPI), USA.

(b) Television Networks.

ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, PBS.

(c) Cable Program Suppliers.

Cable News Network (CNN) and CNN Headline News, Cinemax, Disney Channel, Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN), Home Box Office (HBO), Movie Channel, MTV, The Nashville Network, Nickelodeon, Showtime, VH-1, Weather Channel.

(d) Wire Services.

Associated Press (AP), Reuters, United Press International (UPI).

(e) Common Carriers.

(1) American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T).

(f) Entities that wish to voluntarily participate in the national level EAS may submit a written request to the FCC.

PART L: EAS CODES

I. ORIGINATOR CODES

The following are the only Originator Codes to be used by sources in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area:

- WXR - To be used by National Weather Service Offices.
- CIV - To be used by Emergency Government, Sheriffs, and all other Civil Authorities.
- EAS - To be used by all Broadcasters and Cable TV Operators.

II. EVENT CODES

Originating officials will have to determine which event codes to use to activate the EAS. Whether used under the authority of the State EAS Plan, or any of the County/Local Area EAS Plans, the following are the only Event Codes to be used in the State of Nevada by anyone for any purpose.

- No codes can be added without FCC approval.
- County/Local Area EAS Plans, which desire to use a code not on this list, should submit that code request to the SECC for FCC approval and subsequent addition to this list.
- This list will be maintained as a "Master List" for all Event Codes used in the State of Nevada EAS Plan.
- Event codes must be compatible with the codes used by the NWS Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoder (WRSAME).

A. ORIGINAL EVENT CODES

NATURE OF ACTIVATION	EVENT CODE
Emergency Action Notification	EAN
Emergency Action Termination	EAT
National Information Center	NIC
National Periodic Test	NPT
Required Monthly Test	RMT
Required Weekly Test	RWT
Tornado Watch	TOA
Tornado Warning	TOR

Severe Thunderstorm Watch	SVA
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	SVR
Severe Weather Statement	SVS
Special Weather Statement	SPS
Flash Flood Watch	FFA
Flash Flood Warning	FFW
Flash Flood Statement	FFS
Flood Watch	FLA
Flood Warning	FLW
Flood Statement	FLS
Winter Storm Watch	WSA
Winter Storm Warning	WSW
Blizzard Warning	BZW
High Wind Watch	HWA
High Wind Warning	HWW
Evacuation Immediate	EVI
Civil Emergency Message	CEM
Practice/Demo Warning	DMO
Administrative Message	ADR

B. NEW EVENT CODES

New codes approved by the FCC in February, 2002, will be added to this list when a majority of broadcasters and cable operators have upgraded their EAS Encoder/Decoder equipment to carry the new codes. Until then, these codes will NOT be used.

NATURE OF ACTIVATION

EVENT CODE

Avalanche Warning	AVW
Avalanche Watch	AVA
Child Abduction Emergency (AMBER)	CAE
Civil Danger Warning	CDW
Coastal Flood Warning	CFW
Coastal Flood Watch	CFA
Dust Storm Warning	DSW
Earthquake Warning	EQW
Fire Warning	FRW
Hazardous Materials Warning	HMW
Law Enforcement Warning	LEW
Local Area Emergency	LAE
Network Message Notification	NMN
911 Telephone Outage Emergency	TOE
Nuclear Power Plant Warning	NUW
Radiological Hazard Warning	RHW
Shelter in Place Warning	SPW

Special Marine Warning	SMW
Tropical Storm Warning	TRW
Tropical Storm Watch	TRA
Volcano Warning	VOW

D. CODE GUIDELINES

EAS Encoder/Decoder programming is left to the discretion of broadcasters and cable operators. This list is not meant to exempt station managers from their responsibility to program their equipment as needed to serve their communities.

E. COUNTY LOCATION CODES

- The location code uses the Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) numbers as described by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- The National Weather Service uses these codes in their forecasts.
- Each state is assigned an "SS" number and each county a "CCC" number. A "CCC" of 000 refers to an entire state or territory.

These are the state FIPS numbers (SS) used in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area:

California (CA) - 06
Nevada (NV) - 32

These are the County FIPS Numbers (CCC) used in the Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational Area:

Western Nevada:		Eastern California:	
Washoe	031	Mono	051
Carson City	510	Alpine	003
Douglas	005	El Dorado	017
Storey	029	Placer	061
Lyon	019	Nevada	057
Mineral	021	Sierra	091
Pershing	027	Plumas	063
Churchill	001	Lassen	035
		Modoc	049
		Inyo	027

Contact the Nevada Broadcasters Association for more information and training on the Emergency Alert System.

PART Q: NEVADA STATE AMBER ALERT PLAN

(to be added later)

-End-