



# MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



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The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) originator, seeks to participate in the upcoming targeted test of the WEA system in late 2019 / early 2020 as indicated in the FCC's PS Dockets of 15-91 & 15-94.

MEMA has been an active participant in the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) since its inception and has been an authorized alert originator since 2011. We are involved with planning and operational efforts across the State of Maryland to ensure timely sending and receipt of emergency alerts to protect lives and property and to aid in recovery efforts. We believe that we would meet the criteria for inclusion of this test.

MEMA has firm partnerships with our primary Commercial Mobile Service Providers (CMS) across the state, which has an estimated population of 6 million people (2018 census), and we feel that we can establish a reliable base of users while maintaining user privacy by working with said CMS partners. The State of Maryland encompasses approximately 12k square miles and has wide range of living areas that are complimented by our unique and varied topography. Beach front, coastal wetlands, urban & rural areas and mountainous terrain make up our land use. Given these different type of areas, along with the varied CMS providers, users can expect varied levels of coverage.

As stated, we have been an alert originator since 2011, but prior to the IPAWS system, MEMA has been a regular and active participant with the Emergency Alert System (EAS) since 1999. Through our established Public Information Office, our dedicated staff has the capability to unite with the public through multiple channels via Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Next Door) & Traditional Media (Broadcast/Cable TV, Radio) to raise awareness about the WEA test.

MEMA has the ability to send a State/Local WEA test message through our EAS origination software, EMnet, provided by our vendor, Comlabs. This system allows for statewide or local activation of the emergency alert system to include, but not limited to WEA messages and has redundant pathways for delivery and reception of messages.

In MEMA's Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate lies the Risk and Recovery Branch that houses our Risk Analysis program. This program builds upon situational awareness to answer the questions "so what" and "what now", and uses that data to inform decision-makers for planning, response, and recovery efforts. The goal is to provide a contextual perspective that is a real-time, forward-leaning and predictive, via an accurate All Hazards approach. This is done through the use of detailed GIS data, statistical analysis and predictive algorithms.

MEMA wishes to thank you for this consideration and we look forward to collaborating with the FCC with this test.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gary Zamerski".

Gary Zamerski  
Local Liaison Manager &  
Emergency Communications Coordinator /  
IPAWS Representative  
Maryland Emergency Management Agency