

60001121287.txt

I am a deaf-blind individual living in Nashville, TN. I want to relay to you the need of emergency accessibility for all people with any type of disability requiring special alert notices of emergencies of all types. One item that affects me the most is the crawl text. Due to my low vision condition, this type of text needs to have white letters on black or dark blue background with large font text. The letters need to be clear (for anyone) to read at a distance from the TV. The use of light blue or red background and certain other colors should be prohibited, even in non-emergency programming. It is almost impossible for me to read the white text on light blue background and if it is red, I just cannot see it with my low vision disability. The speed of the crawl text is very important. When it moves too rapidly, it is difficult to read all the text on the alert. A steady moderate rate is the best option.

When the emergency alert is to be displayed on the TV, the regular program can be reduced in size to accommodate the crawl text in the appropriate size to meet the font size used. One or two flashers at one end or both ends of the crawl text line could be used to indicate an alert message is in session. A pre-warning indicator could be used to warn of an alert that is about to be displayed with both visual and voice announcement.

With the advent of technology in the 21st Century, has the idea of braille devices been considered for cable or satellite services to relay the alert to the blind and low vision?

For the audio stream, it should be voiced in a pitch that all hard of hearing individuals can understand. The voicer should be in a monotone type and at a speed that does not jumble up the words. An ASL sign language interpreter should be included with the display.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the above comments. I thank the FCC for this endeavor to accommodate needs of all people in the event of an emergency.

Sincerely, John Forbes