

This comment will only concern the effectiveness of the EAS system as it pertains to public perception. Current FCC Rules require weekly and monthly EAS tests. Many of the Commission's Rules leave monitoring and testing intervals to the licensee's discretion. Programming is interrupted to transmit EAS tests. If the Commission desires to retain mandatory testing, it should be relegated to overnight hours (2am to 5am). Since the EAS transmissions interrupt the program feed line and the EAS system is not daisy chained as its EBS predecessor, daytime only AM stations would not be adversely impacted since a printed log of the reception would be retained by the EAS decoder.

Many cable TV viewers find their programs interrupted by EAS tests as well as weather advisories for distant counties. If the public were not subject to testing and interruptions, the effectiveness of the EAS system would increase since people would pay attention rather than tune out or turn off their receivers.

It is the opinion of this writer that the EAS hardware has sufficiently reliable and mandatory EAS testing should be eliminated and left to the licensee, who is ultimately responsible for proper operation.