

Table of Contents

Summary	iii
I. BACKGROUND	1
II. THE NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY ALERT STATE PLAN	2
III. RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES IN THE <i>NOTICE</i>	4
A. National Alerts	4
B. Mandatory Participation	5
C. Model State Plans	9
D. New Equipment	10
E. Training	11
F. Cable Overrides	12
G. Digital Media	13
Conclusion	13

Summary

NCAB and its members are committed to EAS, which is a critical component of each station's commitment to serving the public interest and providing local service. North Carolina broadcasters make EAS a vibrant, working system serving all North Carolinians.

NCAB supports the Commission's proposal to strengthen the system of transmitting national emergency alerts, and supports the testing that would be required to ensure the functionality of such a national alert system. Whether to institute national alerts and associated tests is an issue best left to the federal government to determine and coordinate.

NCAB's experience is that broadcasters take EAS obligations seriously and that the current level of mandatory participation in EAS is appropriate. NCAB believes that station decisions whether to broadcast particular local and state emergency messages should remain voluntary and that station participation in state and local alerts has been widespread and effective. Local broadcasters are in the best position to assess which EAS messages are relevant to their audience.

NCAB believes that there may be a need for a state level alert that is analogous to the national emergency message that could be utilized by appropriate state officials in very limited circumstances. Otherwise, NCAB opposes federal requirements that would require broadcasters to turn their facilities over to state or local emergency managers for their own purposes.

The Commission should provide a "model" state EAS plan or at least specific guidance for state EAS plans, and the Commission should review state plans and actively work with state and local officials to ensure proper coordination of plans by adjacent jurisdictions.

Broadcasters should be encouraged to install and maintain equipment capable of receiving and transmitting all current EAS codes. However, financial incentives for smaller broadcasters to upgrade their equipment may be appropriate in the event the Commission mandates equipment

installation. Additionally, proper training is important to the efficacy of EAS, and NCAB generally supports the formalization of training.

Cable EAS overrides are frustrating for viewers and broadcasters. NCAB advocates that the Commission implement a more proactive “waiver” approach which would allow television broadcasters to expressly assume responsibility for EAS compliance in exchange for requiring cable operators to refrain from overriding such stations’ programming.

Finally, NCAB supports the applicability of EAS requirements on DTV channels, including on all multicast channels, rather than, at this point in time, the force-tuning of receivers to a single stream.

NCAB and its members are committed to EAS, which is a critical component of each station's commitment to serving the public interest and providing local service.¹ Viewers and listeners depend on broadcasters to provide emergency information, and EAS is one way that broadcasters respond to that need. As with any complex system requiring the cooperation of many people and government entities, there is room for improvement in the mechanical operations of EAS and to attempt to address human error and glitches on the technical side.² But North Carolina broadcasters, through their ongoing efforts, make EAS a vibrant, working system serving all North Carolinians.

II.

THE NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM STATE PLAN

The North Carolina EAS is a system designed to provide North Carolina citizens with timely emergency information and warnings. The North Carolina EAS Plan ("NC Plan") was updated most recently in January 2003. A copy of the NC Plan is attached to these comments.³ The NC Plan is administered by the North Carolina State Emergency Communications Committee ("SECC"), and statewide alerts originate from the State Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") when activated by the Division of Emergency Management ("NCEM").

Ten local areas comprise the NC EAS System. The EOC is the activation point for all EAS alerts, and EAS messages are relayed to the sole State Primary ("SP") station in Raleigh and to radio

¹ In the words of one North Carolina broadcaster: "Broadcasters are licensed to serve the public interest and informing the public is part of our duty. [EAS] is for the public good."

² A broadcaster who serves on the SECC has observed that RMT's do not always make it through the state.

³ Section X.D of the NC Plan governing Child Alert Notification Activation Procedures has been superseded by the North Carolina Amber Plan.

base station locations in five locations. The message is thereafter relayed to the Local Primary (“LP”) stations, who in turn pass, in daisy-chain fashion, the message along the State Relay Network, which is illustrated in Appendix C to the NC Plan. To participate in the NC Plan, stations must monitor at least three EAS sources in their local EAS area. In addition, stations are encouraged (but not required) to monitor NOAA.

Broadcast of EAS messages is encouraged but, as it should be, participation in the NC Plan is voluntary. If a state or local activation of EAS occurs, all stations that have opted to participate in the NC Plan are expected to take part in the activation and follow all applicable requirements.⁴ Significantly, the NC Plan gives stations the discretion to initiate their own EAS announcement based on the observations of station personnel.⁵

In North Carolina, two of the required EAS tests are scheduled in such a manner to raise viewer and listener awareness of the function and importance of EAS. First, under the NC Plan, NCEM is authorized to conduct an annual statewide tornado drill during “Severe Weather Awareness Week,” which is in late February or early March.⁶ Second, in months when a nuclear exercise is being conducted, the State EOC conducts the Required Monthly Test in conjunction with the nuclear plant exercise.⁷ The salutary and intended effect of this scheduling, of course, is that it raises awareness about EAS, and NCAB believes that public education is important to the success

⁴ For the operational details of the North Carolina EAS, see pages 7-19 of the NC Plan.

⁵ *See* NC Plan, at 19.

⁶ *See* NC Plan, at 14.

⁷ *See* NC Plan, at 14.

of the system, to avoid desensitizing the public to and annoying the public with EAS tests and messages.⁸

III.

RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES IN THE *NOTICE*

NCAB member stations frequently report on emergencies before EAS is even activated.⁹ Moreover, station news reporting is almost always substantially more detailed and thorough than the messages being transmitted via EAS. The reality of the stations' commitment to doing their job in their communities—what the Commission refers to as “localism”—suggests the following responses to several of the policy questions set forth in the *Notice*.

A. National Alerts

NCAB supports the Commission's proposal to strengthen the system of transmitting national emergency alerts. NCAB recognizes the importance of having a system capable of transmitting national alerts, particularly in today's post-9/11 environment of ongoing threats to our national security.

In this regard, NCAB supports the testing—perhaps one or two tests per year—that would be required to ensure the functionality of such a national alert system. An emergency alert system should be tested from time to time to ensure proper functioning and to provide additional opportunities for training. National alerts should be part of this testing regime. NCAB would strongly recommend, however, that these tests be conducted during nighttime hours to minimize the

⁸ A Greensboro, North Carolina station noted that EAS testing can “help to educate the public about the availability of information during emergency situations.”

⁹ One North Carolina television station reported: “As with most television news stations, we normally air weather alerts live or at least in the form of a crawl and map by the time we receive the alert from the EAS, but that doesn't diminish the importance of these alerts as a backup to our other equipment.”

intrusion on viewers and listeners. NCAB's members have observed that over-the-air testing can lead to listener and viewer confusion and alarm as well as overall desensitization to the emergency alert system.¹⁰ One of the well-recognized problems with the Commission's former EBS was the overly-intrusive testing that caused the public to lose confidence in the system as a whole. These concerns would apply equally to any national testing of EAS.

In the end, whether to institute national alerts and associated tests is, however, an issue best left to the federal government to determine and coordinate. If the federal government provides the national alert signal, North Carolina broadcasters will be ready, willing and able to carry and distribute it.

B. Mandatory Participation

In its *Notice*, the Commission asks whether participation in EAS should be made mandatory. However, NCAB would point out that participation in EAS is already mandatory—unless broadcasters have specifically sought “Non-participating National” (“NN”) status, they are presumed to be “Participating” stations with respect to broadcast of national EAS messages. Moreover, all broadcasters, even NN-designated stations, are required to meet certain minimal EAS requirements such as having and maintaining EAS equipment, maintaining EAS information, and participating in EAS tests. NCAB's experience is that broadcasters do take these obligations very seriously and that this level of continued mandatory participation in EAS is appropriate.¹¹ NCAB strongly

¹⁰ North Carolina broadcasters have expressed their concerns about desensitization, observing that the “public is already very critical of the current testing procedures and sounds” and that additional testing should be conducted only if it can be done “without disenfranchising the viewer (done in the background—not on air).”

¹¹ One North Carolina broadcaster described EAS as “a form of providing a service to the public [that] should be considered as part of every broadcaster's obligations of public service.”

supports continued mandatory participation at the national level, and the NC Plan already recognizes the mandatory nature of national-level EAS participation.¹²

While it is true that an individual station's decision to broadcast particular local and state emergency messages is voluntary,¹³ NCAB believes this participation has been widespread and effective and that it should remain voluntary. When stations receive state or local EAS alerts, they are in the best position to know whether the alert has been sent in error, whether it is timely and relevant to the local community,¹⁴ and whether the station's own reporting is more detailed and timely than the content contained in the EAS message. Broadcasters spend enormous time and resources in developing local news operations so that they will be in a position to be "first" with local news, particularly urgent matters affecting safety and welfare. If broadcast of specific state or local emergency alerts was mandatory *in spite of* sometimes superior news coverage by broadcasters, this would make the system much more cumbersome and less useful to listeners and viewers and it could compromise some of the very best services that local stations can provide to their communities, especially in times of emergency. The NC Plan acknowledges as much: "Participation in this Plan shall not be deemed to prohibit broadcast licensees from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation."¹⁵

Moreover, mandatory transmission of specific messages raises the very difficult question of which messages to make mandatory. Again, local broadcasters are in the best position to assess

¹² See NC EAS Plan, at 5.

¹³ See NC EAS Plan, at 5, 19. However, consistent with the Commission's EAS rules, under the NC Plan, even non-participating national (NN) stations are permitted to participate in state and/or local EAS

¹⁴ North Carolina broadcasters have encountered situations where alerts have been received after the exigency of the circumstance is helpful in the local community.

¹⁵ NC Plan, at 6.

which messages are relevant to their listeners and viewers. These judgments—particularly with respect to weather events which are the predominant EAS messages transmitted by broadcasters—simply are not capable being made on a uniform basis given existing technology.¹⁶

NCAB notes, however, that there may be a need for a state level alert that is analogous to a the national emergency message that could be utilized by appropriate state officials in very limited circumstances—as when there is a sudden, unforeseeable, widespread disaster that has the potential to impact a large area or population, for example a meltdown of or terrorist attack on a nuclear facility. Otherwise, NCAB would oppose federal requirements that authorize local or state officials to “seize the airwaves” for their own purposes. Control of a station’s content must at all times remain with the licensee, except for the mandatory delivery of a national EAS message (and, as noted above, perhaps an emergency state message). Not only can a station in many cases provide more accurate real-time weather emergency information than even the National Weather Service, it is also a broadcaster’s job to know the best way to communicate vital information to the public, and it is a job most stations do very well. The prospect of allowing, in particular, local emergency managers to take over the station is likely to result in far too many “emergency” alerts, annoying viewers and listeners, which, in turn, would result in the desensitization of the public to “emergency” messages, causing listeners and viewers to “tune out” precisely the material that they most need to “tune in.”¹⁷ Significantly, the NC Plan adverts to these concerns: *“It should be noted that the Emergency Alert*

¹⁶ One North Carolina broadcaster articulated this specific point as follows: “Make [EAS] for true emergencies, not superficial weather warnings. Sometimes you get 3 or 4 [alerts] in a row. Before EAS breaks in, we need to decide if it is an emergency.”

¹⁷ A Charlotte, North Carolina station noted that the efficiency of EAS is directly related to viewers paying attention to the message.

System should be used only in short duration life-or-death events.”¹⁸ Furthermore, for those stations whose viewing or listening areas include more than one state, conflicting demands of multiple state or local emergency managers for broadcast facilities could—indeed would—create chaos during an emergency, which is exactly the opposite of what is needed in such circumstances.

The current NC Plan already provides an appropriate and workable mechanism whereby local emergency managers may trigger an EAS alert, for example by requesting the local National Weather Service office or the state Emergency Operations Center to issue an alert.¹⁹ And the NC Plan unambiguously encourages coordination between and among various authorities to make EAS more effective: “Local and County emergency management officials should contact their local [National Weather Service] office to set up an agreement to clarify and facilitate the [local EAS activation] process.”²⁰

Additionally, licensees should only be answerable to one governmental authority, and that authority should remain the Commission. Otherwise, the necessary efficiencies and smooth operation of the EAS will be compromised as broadcasters struggle to respond to and comply with multiple differing requirements and protocols. While the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) (and its component part, FEMA) can and should take the leading role in ensuring that the

¹⁸ NC Plan, at 6 (emphasis in original). Nonetheless, one North Carolina broadcaster has observed that “we get too many non-emergency weather announcements.”

¹⁹ See NC Plan, at 17, Appendix A. One North Carolina broadcaster observed that “there is and should be cooperation between stations and local emergency managers, while another observes the potential for a “nice symbiotic relationship.”

²⁰ NC Plan, at 17; see also NC Plan, at 19 (“Local Franchise Authorities are strongly encouraged to utilize the EAS to disseminate emergency notifications by contacting their local Emergency Management office and requesting activation of the [EAS]” rather than invoking agreements with “local cable companies to provide audio over-rides or similar emergency alerting capabilities.”).

nation is prepared for national emergencies, broadcasters should be responsive to the ascertained needs of DHS through the regulatory structure of the Commission. That is to say, the Commission should cooperate fully with DHS in fashioning and implementing a national emergency preparedness framework, but the specific requirements pertaining to Commission licensees should be promulgated and overseen by the Commission only.

C. Model State Plans

NCAB believes that it is a fair criticism of the existing EAS that there is not sufficient coordination between state EAS plan, some of which may be out of date, so that the overall effectiveness of the system is compromised. Greater centralization and federal oversight of state EAS plans would likely augment the efficacy of EAS. If the Commission possesses authority to require states to adopt EAS plans,²¹ the Commission, in cooperation with other relevant federal agencies, should consider establishing national guidelines and standards for the structure of such plans and promulgate a “model” plan or at least a Policy Statement enumerating the essential elements of a workable plan.

In addition to providing a “model” plan and specific guidance for state plans, the Commission should review such state plans and actively work with state and local emergency communications committees in making sure the plans developed by adjacent jurisdictions are properly coordinated.²² Funding for the development of such plans should be provided, at least in part, by the federal government.

²¹ It is unclear whether the Commission or DHS has the current statutory authority to require states to adopt such plans.

²² One North Carolina broadcaster highlighted “coordinated alerts with/from adjacent states” as an area in which the current EAS could benefit from improvement.

NCAB would emphasize, however, that state EAS plans cannot be derived from a “one-size-fits-all” mold. North Carolina has specifically tailored its EAS plan to reach all North Carolinians; but what might work in North Carolina might not work in Hawaii or Alaska. What might be needed in Florida might not be relevant in Arizona. The guidelines and standards, therefore, should provide an overall framework so that EAS, taken as a whole at the national, state, and local levels, works seamlessly.

D. New Equipment

Because EAS can only be as effective as its component parts—literally—broadcasters should be encouraged to install and maintain equipment capable of receiving and transmitting all current EAS codes. In fact, the North Carolina SECC recently required stations who opt to participate in Amber Alerts to upgrade their equipment so that it may properly receive and transmit the Child Abduction Emergency (CAE) Code.²³ North Carolina stations participating in the North Carolina Plan were to have completed such equipment upgrades by July 1, 2004. For small broadcasters, any such mandated equipment requirement should be accompanied by an appropriate economic incentive—e.g., tax credits, regulatory fees credits, or some other “carrot” compensatory mechanism so that such a requirement would be affordable for smaller broadcasters whose participation in EAS is so important to its success.

As a practical matter, an equipment overhaul need occur only once—after “modern” hardware is installed, further upgrades are typically a function of new software, which is less costly than the hardware. And software upgrades should likewise be mandatory, and the Commission should provide an appropriate transition period for the acquisition and installation of each successive

²³ In addition, a broadcaster serving as a member of the SECC noted that a “long-term goal” of the SECC is to equip all North Carolina broadcast stations with EAS equipment to receive alerts via satellite distribution.

software upgrade. Moreover, equipment manufacturers should be encouraged to manufacture EAS equipment that is capable of upgrading through inexpensive means so as to minimize the financial burden on broadcasters, particularly small broadcasters, in keeping their equipment up-to-speed with changing EAS requirements.

E. Training

NCAB believes that the success of EAS depends on the operating staff readiness, equipment configuration, and adherence to protocol and steps required by state plans. Indeed, the NC Plan encourages stations “to stagger the broadcast of the [Required Weekly Test] in an effort to expose all station operators both full time and part time to the procedures of conducting an EAS test.”²⁴ Of course, in order for the procedures of conducting an EAS test to be effective, station personnel must have adequate training, because EAS alerts can be a matter of life or death, leaving little time for staff to “learn the ropes” in a real-time emergency. Accordingly, proper training (and retraining) is a critical component of EAS, and NCAB supports the formalization of training, so long as it does not prove to be unduly burdensome or disruptive.²⁵

Nonetheless, the implementation of training programs must, of necessity, occur at the local level.²⁶ Because the success of EAS depends on the competency of all persons and organizations involved at all levels of EAS, which in turn depends upon the adequacy and efficacy of training, funding for annual training of emergency management personnel, as well as of broadcast station

²⁴ NC Plan, at 14.

²⁵ A Greensboro, North Carolina station observed that “additional and on-going training is probably the most efficient way to assure that the current system remains effective.” Even that station reported discovering “some confusion about the operation of the system” when implementing the Amber Plan.

²⁶ Several North Carolina stations have suggested that state broadcaster associations or the SBE could serve as sources for EAS training.

personnel, should be provided by the federal government. The federal government should also be responsible for providing guidance to ensure that an appropriate minimum level of training is provided. A national training standard would ensure that training is uniform across the board—throughout local communities, throughout the states, and among federal and state and local government agencies.

F. Cable Overrides

One of the most frustrating—to broadcasters and viewers alike—and potentially harmful aspects of the current system is when a cable operator overrides a television station’s own EAS messages or emergency reporting and information. Although cable systems are permitted, through a written agreement, to elect not to interrupt the emergency content of broadcast stations,²⁷ many NCAB television members have been unable to reach such an agreement with the local cable system.²⁸ Such cable overrides are harmful not only because they may provide the public with less vital and up-to-date emergency information than the fuller reporting of a television station’s full news and weather departments, but they have, in the past, actually interfered with the provision of such information.²⁹ Some North Carolina broadcasters have identified the automated nature of most cable EAS equipment as a problem.³⁰ Because television broadcasters have made substantial

²⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 11.51(h)(4).

²⁸ At least one North Carolina television station has reported that cable operators have requested that the station pay for equipment that would allow the cable operator to forego the “blue screen” cable override for the station.

²⁹ One station described the problem as follows: “When a cable system overrides a broadcaster, they are often blocking live, updated information regarding the weather emergency with material that is now 30 minutes [old] or older.”

³⁰ A Lexington, North Carolina station noted that “cable operations are automated and most cable systems do not have news or weather people that are providing live updated information.”

investments for critical, emergency reporting, the regulatory regime should not permit cable overrides to undermine those investments and the benefit they bring to local communities at their greatest time of need.

Accordingly, NCAB advocates that the Commission implement a more proactive “waiver” approach which would allow television broadcasters to expressly assume responsibility for EAS compliance in exchange for requiring cable operators to refrain from overriding such stations’ programming.

G. Digital Media

NCAB supports the applicability of EAS requirements on DTV channels, including on all multicast channels, rather than, at this point in time, the force-tuning of receivers to a single stream. Given that the transition to DTV is still in its infancy, with many of the technical and business issues concerning operating in a multicasting environment still to be determined, NCAB would urge the Commission not to prejudge the application of EAS in a digital environment. It is likely that DTV will enhance broadcasters’ EAS abilities, but the Commission should refrain, at this point in time, from imposing regulations that might constrain the manner in which broadcasters roll-out DTV service.

Conclusion

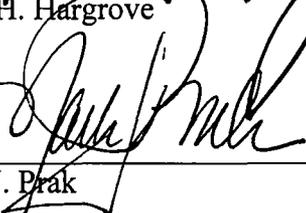
The Commission’s leadership in seeking to keep EAS as up-to-date and responsive as possible is commendable. In furtherance of those goals, NCAB respectfully requests that the Commission consider the recommendations set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,

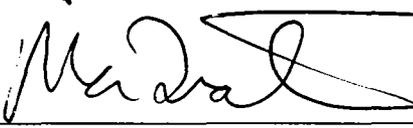
**THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
OF BROADCASTERS**



Wade H. Hargrove



Mark J. Prak



Marcus W. Trathen

BROOKS, PIERCE, McLENDON,
HUMPHREY & LEONARD, L.L.P.
Wachovia Capitol Center, Suite 1600
150 Fayetteville Street Mall (27601)
Post Office Box 1800
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602
Telephone: (919) 839-0300
Facsimile: (919) 839-0304

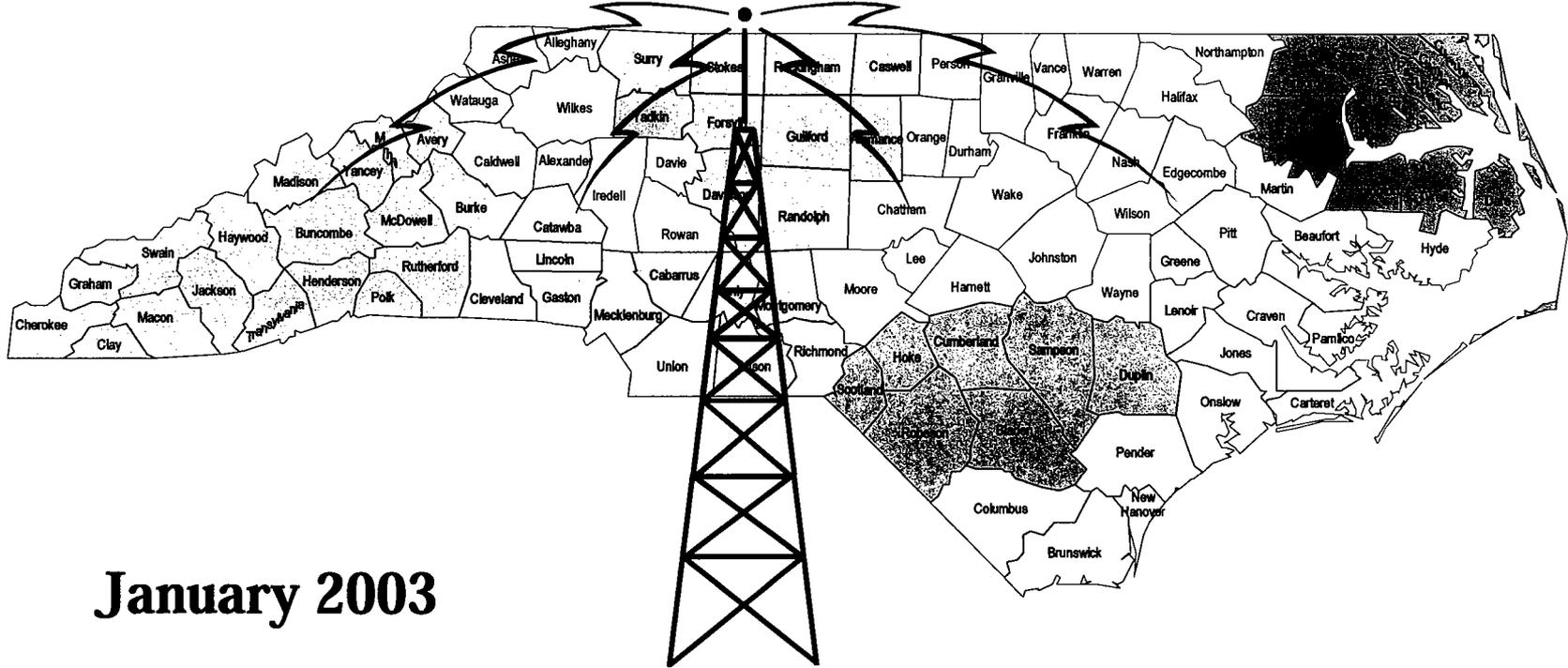
Its Attorneys

October 29, 2004

Attachment

[North Carolina Emergency Alert System State Plan]

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM



STATE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 1

I. INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN4

II AUTHORITY.....4

**III. THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM:
PARTICIPATION AND PRIORITIES**4

A. NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PARTICIPATION.....

B. STATE/LOCAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PARTICIPATION.....

C. CONDITIONS OF EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PARTICIPATION.....

D. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PRIORITIES.....

**IV. THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
COMMITTEE**6

**V. ORGANIZATION AND CONCEPTS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**6

A. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM DESIGNATIONS.....

B. DELIVERY PLAN.....

C. DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL EAS STRUCTURE AND PLANS.....

D. ORIGINS OF EAS INFORMATION.....

VI. AUTHENTICATION.....9

A. NATIONAL.....

B. STATE.....

C. LOCAL.....

VII. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PROTOCOL9

A. HEADER CODE.....

B. ATTENTION SIGNAL

C. AURAL MESSAGE.....

D. END OF MESSAGE.....

E. TIME-DURATION AND COUNTY LOCATION CODES.....

VIII. REQUIRED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TESTS14

A. REQUIRED WEEKLY TEST.....

B. REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST
.....

IX. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM SCRIPTS AND FORMATS.....15

A. REQUIRED WEEKLY TEST.....

B. REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST.....

X. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVATION PROCEDURES.....17

A. NATIONAL ACTIVATION PROCEDURES.....

B. STATE ACTIVATION PROCEDURES.....

C. LOCAL AREA ACTIVATION PROCEDURES.....

D. NORTH CAROLINA CHILD ALERT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.....

E. WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PROCEDURES.....

XI. GUIDANCE FOR BROADCASTING AN EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ALERT.....19

A. RADIO TRANSMISSION OF AN EAS ALERT.....

B. TELECASTING AN EAS ALERT.....

XII. GUIDANCE FOR ORIGINATORS OF AN EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ALERT.....20

A. GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PERSONNEL.....

B. GUIDANCE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/SERVICES PERSONNEL.....

GLOSSARY.....21

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....25

SIGNATURE/APPROVAL PAGE.....43

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A (Roster of Entities Authorized to Activate the Emergency Alert System)28

APPENDIX B (State Emergency Communications Committee)29

(Local Area Emergency Communications Commission).....30

APPENDIX C (Emergency Alert System State Relay Map).....32

APPENDIX D (Emergency Alert System Daisy Chain Network)33

APPENDIX E (EAS Monitoring Assignments by Local Area).....34

APPENDIX F (National-level Emergency Alert System).....36

APPENDIX G (National Weather Service Forecast Area Map)38

APPENDIX H (NOAA Station Locations and Radio Frequencies).....39

APPENDIX I (Emergency Alert System Event Codes)40

APPENDIX J (Federal Information Processing Systems Codes).....41

APPENDIX K (Federal Information Processing Systems Code Map).....42

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PRIORITIES5

TABLE 2. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM DESIGNATION DEFINITIONS.....7

TABLE 3. HEADER CODE SEQUENCE.....10

TABLE 4. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ORIGINATOR CODES10

TABLE 5. EXAMPLE LOCATION CODES11

TABLE 6. EXAMPLE DURATION CODES12

TABLE 7. ENCODER IDENTIFIER CODE FORMATS.....12

TABLE 8. NATIONAL EVENT CODES.....40

TABLE 9. LOCAL EVENT CODES.....40

I. INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

This plan is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated document outlining the organization and implementation of the State of North Carolina Emergency Alert System (EAS). This plan is the guideline for North Carolina broadcasters, cable television operators, state and local entities authorized to use the EAS (as listed in Appendix A) to determine:

- Mandated and optional monitoring assignments;
- Codes to be used in the EAS Header sequence;
- Schedule of the Required Monthly Tests (RMTs) which must be relayed by all broadcasters and cable operators;
- Any other elements of the EAS which are unique to this state.

II. AUTHORITY

Authority lies within Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i) and (o), 303(r), 524(g) and 606; and 47 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR,) Part 11, Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations, Emergency Alert System as it pertains to day-to-day emergency operations.

All operations of the Emergency Alert System are in accordance with Subpart G of Part 73, FCC Regulations (Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations; the Federal Communications Commission's "EAS Checklist"). This plan is consistent with the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission and is considered to be a supplement to the National Emergency Alert System Plan.

This Plan is an adjunct to the FCC EAS Rules, and is not meant to be a summary, in whole or in part, of those rules. Consult FCC Rules Part 11 for complete rules regarding the Emergency Alert System. All references located within brackets in the following text refer to the aforementioned FCC Rules Part 11.

III. THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM: PARTICIPATION AND PRIORITIES

A. *National Emergency Alert System Participation*

All broadcasters and subject cable operators are required to participate in the National-level EAS. Participating National (PN) stations and cable operators will carry the Presidential message; Non-Participating National (NN) stations will make an announcement and sign off. All broadcasters and subject cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly Test (RWT). In addition, once a month every broadcaster must re-transmit a Required Monthly Test (RMT) within 60 minutes [FCC 11.61 (v)] of their EAS decoder receiving it. These actions are required of all broadcasters and subject cable operators, regardless of their "PN" or "NN" EAS status.

B. *State/Local Emergency Alert System Participation*

Participation in the State and/or Local Area EAS is voluntary for all broadcasters and cable operators. However, broadcast stations and cable operators electing to participate in the State and/or Local Area EAS must follow the procedures found in this Plan. Stations designated "NN" (Non-Participating National) may participate in the State and/or

Local Area EAS without any prior FCC approval even though they elect not to carry National EAS Alerts.

It should be noted that the Emergency Alert System should be used only in short duration life-or-death events.

C. Conditions of Emergency Alert System Participation

Participation in this Plan shall not be deemed to prohibit broadcast licensees from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Broadcast stations and cable systems transmitting EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority. Management of each broadcast station and cable system may exercise discretion regarding the broadcast of emergency information and instructions to the general public. This authority is provided by FCC Rules and Regulations [11.54d].

Participation in the Child Alert Notification (CAN) system is voluntary and contingent upon a Memorandum of Understanding between local law enforcement agencies and area broadcasters. Contact the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons (NC CMP) (1-800-522-6437) for a copy of this MOU and registration in the CAN system. The North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (EOC), at the request of NC CMP, will transmit CAN messages.

D. Emergency Alert System Priorities

EAS Priorities as set forth in the FCC rules [11.44] are as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Emergency Alert System Priorities

Priority Level	Priority
First	National Level EAS Messages
Second	Local Area EAS Messages
Third	State EAS Messages
Fourth	Messages from the National Information Center (NIC)

Messages from the National Information Center are follow-up messages sent after a national EAS activation.

IV. THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The responsibility for administering this plan rests with the members of the North Carolina State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC). The FCC appoints the SECC chairman and co-chairmen for radio, television, cable and utility interests. The chairmen and co-chairmen of the ten Local Area Emergency Communications Committees (LAECC) and other voluntary members appointed by the SECC Chairman are also members of the SECC. Refer to Appendix B for a listing of SECC and LAECC members.

V. ORGANIZATION AND CONCEPTS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

The full, statewide North Carolina EAS can be activated by a request from an authorized Federal or State official to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Communication Officer on duty will approve the relay of the message to the EAS State Primary 1 (SP-1), WQDR-FM (94.7 MHz) in Raleigh and to radio base station locations in Wilmington, Raleigh, Columbia, Concord, and Clingmans Peak. The message will be relayed to the Local Primary-1 (LP-1) or LP-2 stations who will pass the message along the State Relay Network as illustrated in Appendix C. The routing of the over-the-air, "daisy chain" relay network using SP-1 (WQDR) and SP-2 (WDCG-FM 105.1 MHz) is charted in Appendix D. The monitoring assignments for each county are listed in Appendix E.

If, for any reason, the State EOC is unable to transmit a statewide alert message or a required monthly test, the EOC Duty Officer will contact the EAS State Primary 1, or failing that, the EAS State Primary 2, and request the transmission of that alert or RMT. If the State EOC is unable to transmit a local alert message, the EOC Duty Officer will contact the relevant LP-1 station and request the transmission of that alert message.

FCC rules stipulate that all broadcast station licensees and cable systems in North Carolina monitor two EAS sources (LP-1 and LP-2) for their EAS local area. In addition to the required monitoring assignments, stations may monitor other sources, such as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, NCEM network (EASnet), or an adjacent local area LP-1 or LP-2 station. For full participation in the North Carolina State EAS Plan, each radio and television station and cable system with city of license in the state must monitor at least three EAS sources in the EAS Local Area.

A. Emergency Alert System Designations

Every broadcast station and subject cable system will be assigned an EAS designation status, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. EAS Designation Definitions

EAS Designation	Full Title	Definition
NP	National Primary	A source of national EAS alerts
SRN	State Relay Network	A State-operated radio and telephone system which originates from the State Emergency Operation Center. The SRN system is a primary source of State EAS messages. State Relay (SR) stations are identified in Appendix C of this plan.
LP	Local Primary	Broadcast stations which are primary sources of local area, national, and State weather/flood warnings, tornado warnings and/or watches. State LP stations are identified in Appendix C of this plan.
PN	Participating National	Broadcast stations and cable systems that deliver all levels of EAS to the general public. Most broadcasters and cable operators are designated as "PN."
NN	Non-participating National	Broadcasters which have elected not to participate in the national level EAS. These stations must have specific

		authorization from the FCC to sign off the air during a national emergency.
--	--	---

B. Delivery Plan

The SECC is required by the FCC to develop an EAS message delivery plan which will provide a minimum of two sources for all levels of EAS alerts to each broadcast station and subject cable system.

Monitoring assignments for all broadcast stations and subject cable systems in North Carolina are included in this plan. (See Appendix C for the NC EAS Relay Network, Appendix D for the EAS "Daisy Chain" Network, and Appendix E for EAS County Monitoring assignments.)

C. Development of Local Emergency Alert System Structure and Plans

A basic EAS system would have at least one point of access for all authorized agencies within a local operational area. This point would consist of an EAS encoder and a communication link capable of sending EAS information to an LP station.

LP stations are encouraged to place their encoders on auto-forward mode at all times. Automatic interrupt of programming and transmission of EAS messages are required when facilities are unattended. Automatic transmission must include a permanent record that contains at a minimum the following information: originator, event, location and valid time period of the message [FCC Rules 11.51].

D. Origins of Emergency Alert System Information

1. National-Level System

The President of the United States or other federal authorities may utilize the facilities of EAS in a national emergency. Notification of a national EAS alert comes in the form of an EMERGENCY ACTION NOTIFICATION (EAN) from the White House. This notification is distributed to the nation via one method:

- The network of PRIMARY ENTRY POINT (PEP) broadcast stations. The PEP station in the State of North Carolina is WQDR-FM (94.7) in Raleigh.

See Appendix F for a description of the National-level EAS system.

2. State-Level System

The primary statewide EAS Activation Point (EAS-AP) is the State Emergency Operation Center, 116 West Jones St., Raleigh, North Carolina. The Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) is responsible for statewide activation of EAS. A list of the entities authorized to activate the EAS system can be found in Appendix A. Procedures for activation are detailed in this document at: X. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVATION PROCEDURES "State Activation Procedures." The Statewide Activation network for EAS is depicted in Appendices C, D, and E.

3. *National Weather Service Distribution*

Seven National Weather Service (NWS) offices operate seventeen National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio (NWR) transmitter systems that broadcast weather information that impacts North Carolina counties. This information includes weather warnings and watches for adverse weather conditions. Broadcast stations and cable systems receive and re-broadcast both these weather-related advisories and other emergency information. Each NWS office is required to perform a weekly test of the NWR system. A State, area, county, or city emergency management official may directly contact the servicing NWS office and request issuance of a Civil Emergency Message (CEM) via the NWR system. See Appendix G for a map of each NWS office's area of responsibility and Appendix H for NWR station locations and their coverage patterns. Additional details on NWR, such as transmission frequencies, can be found at the NWR website address: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr> .

VI. **AUTHENTICATION**

A. *National*

Per FCC public notice (<http://www.fcc.gov/mmb/asd/decdoc/letter/1998--09--03--eas2.html>) the authenticator code list is no longer distributed by the FCC, and is no longer required.

B. *State*

One statewide authentication list will be used for all local and state activation. This list will be furnished by the Division of Emergency Management to all SR-1 and SR-02 stations, the seven National Weather Service offices with warning responsibilities in North Carolina, all local emergency management offices and others designated to request an activation.

C. *Local*

A statewide authentication list will be provided to designated local authorities as stated in paragraph B above.

VII. **EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PROTOCOL**

EAS activations (tests or alerts) will consist of up to four elements:

- A header code (mandatory);
- An attention signal (optional);
- An aural message (optional); and
- An end of message code (mandatory).

A. Header Code

All EAS activations will include a header code data burst. The header code will be sent three times, with a one-second pause after each transmission, to ensure proper reception by EAS decoders.

EAS header codes consist of the following elements sent in the sequence shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Header Code Sequence

Header Code Sequence	Header Code	Name of Code	Definition
First	Preamble	N/A	Clears the system. The preamble is automatically sent by the EAS encoder.
Second	ZCZC	Start Code	An identifier which indicates the start of the ASCII code. Automatically sent by the EAS encoder.
Third	ORG	Originator Code	The code describes the type of entity originating an EAS activation. See subsection 1 below.
Fourth	EEE	Event Code	This code describes the type of event that has occurred. See subsection 2 below.
Fifth	SSCCC	Location Code	This code identifies the states, counties, municipalities and unincorporated areas affected by the EAS alert. See subsection 3 below.
Sixth	TTTT	Duration Code	This code defines how long the alert is expected to be in effect. See subsection 4 below.
Seventh	JJJHHMM	Date and Time of Day Code	Date and time of day the EAS was activated. See subsection 5 below.
Eighth	LLLLLLLL	Encoder Identifier Code	This code identifies the specific entity originating the EAS alert. See subsection 6 below.

1. *Originator Code*

The user programs their originator code (ORG) into the EAS encoder at initial setup. The valid originator codes are given in Table 4 [11.31d]:

Table 4. EAS Originator Codes

Originator Code	Definition
EAN	Emergency Action Notification Network
PEP	Primary Entry Point System
WXR	National Weather Service
CIV	Civil Authorities
EAS	Broadcast Station or Cable System

2. *Event Code*

The Event Code (EEE) must be programmed into the encoder by the originator for each activation. The Event Codes listed in Appendix I (Table 8 and Table 9) have been approved by the FCC for EAS use in North Carolina [11.31e]. Only those codes approved by the FCC may be used. Any agency that desires to use a code not on the list of approved event codes must submit the proposed code to the SECC for approval. If the SECC agrees with the need for a new code the request will be sent to the FCC for approval by a consortium of the FCC, FEMA, and NWS officials. Once the code is approved it will be added to the "master list" of event codes. Eventually the FCC will update the Part 11 rules to include the new code.

3. *Location Code*

The location code (SSCCC) must be programmed by the alert originator each time an alert is issued.

EAS location codes are based on FIPS (Federal Information Processing System) codes [11.31c]. Each state has been assigned a number and each county in each state has been assigned a number. The combination of the state number and the county number gives each county in the entire country a unique identification number. The FIPS code for the State of North Carolina is 37. Table 5 gives some example EAS location codes for counties in North Carolina. FIPS codes for each North Carolina County are located in Appendix J. A map containing County FIPS codes can be found in Appendix K.

Table 5. Example Location Codes

County	Location Code
Alamance	37001
Cherokee	37039
Halifax	37083
Madison	37115
Northampton	37131
Yadkin	37197

4. **Duration Code**

The duration code (TTTT) must be assigned by the alert originator any time an alert is sent. Valid durations can be entered in 15 minute segments for time periods of less than one hour, and in 30 minute segments for time periods exceeding an hour. Example duration codes are shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Example Duration Codes

Duration Code	Duration
0015	Fifteen minutes
0030	Thirty minutes
0045	Forty-five minutes
0100	One hour
0230	Two hours thirty minutes

5. **Date and Time of Day Code**

The Date and Time of Day Code (JJJHHMM) is based on a Julian calendar and is sent automatically by the EAS encoder. The duration of the event is calculated as starting from this time. (Example: January 5, 2:15 p.m. would be stamped 0051415.)

6. **Encoder Identifier Code**

The Encoder Identifier Code (LLLLLLLL) identifies the broadcaster, cable operator, Weather Service office, civil authority or industrial plant that operated the encoder that transmitted or retransmitted the activation. The information is programmed into the encoder at initial setup and is automatically added to the EAS header by the encoder.

Table 7 lists the formats for the mandatory "L-Codes" for various organizations and agencies.

Table 7. Encoder Identifier Code Formats

Activation Entity	Identifier Code	Example
Broadcasters	Station call letters. For two stations give both stations' call letters in sequence (as shown in example). For three or more stations, the call letters of one station is sufficient.	Single Station: WXXX (FM) Two Stations: WXXXWYYY
Cable Television	Six-digit FCC Cable ID Number	123456
Weather Service Offices	Use the station call sign (PXXX) followed by /NWS	PXXX/NWS
Civil Authorities	L-Codes for civil authorities will be constructed using the initials of the civil agency.	North Carolina Division of Emergency Management: NCEM
Military Groups	As given in examples.	Army: USARMY Navy: USNAVY Air Force: AIRFORCE Marine Corps: USMC Coast Guard: USCG

B. Attention Signal

Following the header code, a two-tone attention signal may be used to alert listeners and viewers that an EAS activation has occurred and that an aural message will follow. The attention signal should be used if an aural message will be included as part of the alert. All NWS RWT and designated warnings will use the 1050HZ-tone alarm.

The two-tone attention signal must consist of the fundamental frequencies of 853 and 960 Hz transmitted simultaneously [11.31a2] and must be from 8 to 25 seconds in duration [11.31c]. When used, the attention signal must follow the EAS header and must precede an aural message. Use of the two-tone attention signal and an aural message will be determined by the originator of the alert; they are not required, but if one is used the other must accompany it. It is not required for state and local alerts [11.51b].

C. Aural Message

An EAS alert may also include an aural message. EAS decoders are required to have the capability to record and store at least two minutes of audio information [11.33a3i]. The originator may supply an aural message of up to, but not more than, ninety seconds in length. The aural message will be transmitted following the attention signal. Transmission of the aural message is not required for state and local alerts [11.51b].

D. End of Message

In addition, all EAS alerts will contain an end-of-message code burst to indicate the complete reception of the message [11.31c]. The end-of-message code burst is sent three times, as with the header code, to ensure proper reception by EAS decoders. The end of message character string is comprised of four ASCII "N" characters.

E. Time-Duration and County-Location Codes to be used in Testing

The TIME DURATION used in the EAS header code for all EAS tests shall be 120 MINUTES.

COUNTY LOCATION codes used in the EAS header code for EAS tests shall conform to these guidelines:

- SRN Stations: All tests shall use the Location Code for the entire state (37000).
- PN Stations, NN Stations, and Cable Operators: The RMT shall be re-transmitted unchanged, except for the "L-Code". Thus, RMTs will include all counties present in the original message. For the RWT performed every week by each PN and NN station, and each cable operator, the county-location code used shall be the county for the broadcaster or cable operator's service area. Other counties in the station's/system's service area may be added at management discretion.

VIII. REQUIRED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TESTS

All broadcasters, subject cable operators, and the National Weather Service are required to transmit Required Weekly Tests (RWT) and Required Monthly Tests (RMT) with the following exceptions:

- LPTV stations that do not originate local programming and TV translators are not required to have EAS equipment.

A. **Required Weekly Test**

1. *Transmission*

All broadcasters, subject cable operators, and the National Weather Service must initiate a required weekly test (RWT) once a week at random days and times except for the week of the RMT test. There are no time-of-day restrictions. This is a 10.5-second test, consisting only of the EAS Header and End-of-Message Codes.

Broadcast stations are encouraged to stagger the broadcast of the RWT in an effort to expose all station operators both full time and part time to the procedures of conducting an EAS test.

2. *Reception*

All broadcasters and subject cable operators receiving a RWT from one of their monitored sources must log receipt of this test. No further action is required. Daytime only stations receiving an overnight RWT must log the test received in the appropriate manner the following morning.

B. **Required Monthly Test**

1. *Transmission*

Required monthly tests (RMTs) will be initiated by the State of North Carolina Division of Emergency Management according to the schedule distributed by the State EAS Coordinator. Upon receipt of the test message, broadcasters and cable operators should react as described in "3. Reception and Re-transmission" below. These tests shall always use the Event Code "RMT".

NCEM may conduct an annual statewide tornado drill during Severe Weather Awareness Week in late February or early March. An RMT may be issued with the audio referring to the statewide tornado drill.

In months when a nuclear exercise is being conducted, the State EOC will conduct the RMT in conjunction with the nuclear plant exercise.

2. *RMT Scheduling*

A. TIME OF DAY

Per guidance contained in 11.61 of CFR, the North Carolina State SECC has determined the required monthly tests be as follows:

- Between local sunset and 8:30 am on even numbered months; and
- Between 8:30 am and local sunset on odd numbered months.

B. RECOMMENDED TIME CONSTRAINTS

After considering the programming needs of broadcast, TV and cable operations, the SECC, through the State EAS Coordinator, will publish a Required Monthly Test (RMT) schedule in the fall of the preceding year. RMTs will originate from the State EOC. All broadcast stations and subject cable systems should retransmit the RMT exactly as received.

3. Reception and Re-transmission

All broadcasters and subject cable operators receiving an RMT must re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving it [11.61 (1.v)]. For daytime-only stations receiving a night time RMT, this test must be re-transmitted within 60 minutes of the station's sign-on. Transmission of the RMT takes the place of the Required Weekly Test (RWT). Times should be logged for both the receipt and re-transmission of the RMT. Broadcast and cable management should impress upon their staff that re-transmission of this test is mandatory. Failing to retransmit the RMT within 60 minutes of its reception is a violation of FCC regulations.

IX. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM SCRIPTS AND FORMATS

A. Required Weekly Test

No script is used for the RWT. The entire test takes 10.5 seconds and should be formatted as follows:

- One-second pause;
- Send EAS header;
- One-second pause;
- 1050 hertz attention signal for 8 seconds (NWS only);
- NWS Script (NWS only);
- Send EAS end-of-message code;
- One-second pause; and
- Resume normal programming.

Though standard RWTs are not scripted, RWTs initiated by the National Weather Service (NWS) follow a NWS script.

B. Required Monthly Tests

Originators of the Required Monthly Tests shall use the following format. All other broadcasters and subject cable operators will receive the test in this format and must retransmit it within 60 minutes of receipt in the same format.

1. *RMT Format and Script*

- Send the EAS header code
 - Use the "RMT" event code
 - Use 120-minute duration
- One second pause;
- Send the two-tone attention signal for 8 seconds;
- Transmit the following test script:

"This is a test of the North Carolina Emergency Alert System. This is only a test. Broadcasters in cooperation with local, state and national authorities have developed this system to provide the public with important emergency information, should the need arise. This concludes the monthly test of the North Carolina Emergency Alert System."

- One second pause; and
- Send EAS end-of-message code.

2. *Optional Test Introduction and Wrap-ups*

In addition to the required elements in the RMT format, broadcasters and cable systems may elect to add an optional introduction to the test and/or an optional test wrap-up. When a test is received, the station could run the optional introduction followed by a one-second pause, retransmit the RMT as outlined above, run the test wrap-up, and then return to regular programming.

The content of the introduction and wrap-up is entirely up to the broadcasters and subject cable operators.

An example of an optional test introduction is:

"This station, in cooperation with national, state, and local officials, participates in the Emergency Alert System. The following is an EAS test."

An example of an optional test wrap-up is:

"For information regarding the Emergency Alert System, contact this station or your local emergency management organization."

X. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVATION PROCEDURES

A. National Activation Procedures

All National level activations will be issued from the White House and will be transmitted to the NC Primary Entry Point, WQDR-FM in Raleigh, NC. The message will be relayed to the State Primary and State Relay stations for retransmission throughout the NC EAS Network. All EAS receivers are factory-programmed to handle National Emergency

Action Notification (EAN). EAS messages with the EAN event code must be transmitted immediately [11.52 (2)]. Automatic interrupt of programming is required when facilities are unattended [11.52 (1)]. A broadcast source that has elected to become a Non-participating National must remove its signal from the air during a National activation. All other stations must carry the activation message. For additional information concerning National alert activation procedures see Appendix F.

B. State Activation Procedures

At the direction of the Governor, the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, the Director of the Emergency Management Division, the EM Duty Officer, the State EAS coordinator or a designee, the EM Communication Officer will develop the appropriate EAS message and format it into the EAS encoder/decoder for distribution statewide. All SR-1 stations would be alerted through the EASnet System, and the message will then be relayed throughout the NC EAS network (see appendices C, D, and E). Civil Authorities (CIV) will be the originator code for State level activation.

In the event of a Child Abduction Emergency, the NC Center for Missing Persons may request that NCEM issue a statewide EAS activation (see D below). The NC CMP will determine whether the alert will be broadcast locally or statewide.

C. Local Area Activation Procedures

In the event that a State, area, county or city emergency management official deems it necessary to disseminate emergency information to the general public for a localized life-threatening event or incident, that official should directly contact either:

- a. the National Weather Service (NWS) office serving that area and request that NWS issue a CEM over NOAA Weather Radio (NWR).
- or
- b. the County Emergency Management Coordinator who will contact the State EOC and request the issuance of a Civil Emergency Message (CEM),

The emergency management official should provide text information about the hazard and the appropriate response to the NWS office for immediate transmission. Local and County emergency management officials should contact their local NWS office to set up an agreement to clarify and facilitate the process.

Alternatively, a local emergency management official may ask the County Emergency Management Coordinator or his designated representative to activate the EAS. The CEMC should fax text information concerning the hazard and the appropriate response to the State EOC for transmission along the EAS network.

CEMC's for Radiological Emergency Preparedness 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) counties may contact the EOC directly using the "EZ-Box Procedures" listed in Annex E, Appendix 3 of their applicable nuclear power plant plan. The CEMC should be prepared to record the audio portion of the alert in accordance with the above referenced procedures.

Upon receipt of a faxed or EZ-Box message reporting a valid event or incident, the Communications Officer at the EOC will format the message on the EAS SAGE encoder/decoder for transmission. He will then patch the SAGE into EASnet, (NCEM'S two-way radio system linking the LP-1's to the State EOC) selecting the closest

transmitter site to the LP-1 station in the warning area. The message will be transmitted to the appropriate SR or LP station(s) using the EAS digital protocols.

A satellite phone system links all LP-1 and LP-2 radio stations to the State EOC as a back-up voice communications link.

EASnet frequencies are:

Channel 1 -- 47.46 MHZ; Channel 2 -- 47.50 MHZ;

Channel 3 -- 47.54 MHZ; Channel 4 -- 47.58 MHZ

Channel 5 -- 47.62 MHZ

Broadcasters should contact their County Emergency Management Coordinator for the assigned channel in your city of license.

D. NC Child Alert Notification Activation Procedures

The State Emergency Communications Committee has approved the use of the EAS for a Child Abduction Emergency. While participation is strictly voluntary, broadcasters wishing to participate in the Child Alert Notification (NC CAN) should contact the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons (NC CMP). Any request to activate the State EAS for a Child Abduction Emergency must originate from the NC CMP. That agency will provide pertinent information to NCEM who will then activate the Emergency Alert System. The message will have statewide distribution and a three-hour duration unless the NC CMP designates a more specific broadcast area or a shorter or longer duration. NCEM will use the Event Code "CEM" (indicating a Civil Emergency Message) to broadcast child abduction emergencies since most decoder boxes currently do not recognize the "CAE" event code.

E. Weather-Related Emergency Alert System Activation Procedures

The vast majority of weather-related EAS alerts are originated by the National Weather Service via the NOAA Weather Radio. These alerts are also disseminated via the NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWWS) and the AP teletype network. An EAS weather alert received via one of these teletypes shall constitute valid authorization for a broadcaster or cable operator to originate an EAS weather alert warning if that is the level of alert that has been declared by the National Weather Service. Although it is preferable to utilize NOAA Weather Radio, a local emergency management official may directly

contact a local broadcaster and request the transmission of an EAS weather alert. The alert will be issued as a (CEM).

The NWS may request activation of the EAS at local, regional, or statewide level during the following four alert conditions:

1. Hurricane Warning (HUR)
2. Flash Flood Warning (FFW)
3. Tornado Warning (TOR)
4. Tornado Watches (TOA)

Local stations may carry or broadcast any information provided by the NWS concerning weather events. Each station's management makes the decision to activate for other weather warnings or watches. It should also be understood that nothing in this plan

prohibits any station from initiating its own EAS announcement originating from observations of its own personnel.

XI. GUIDANCE FOR BROADCASTING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ALERTS

National level alert messages **must be carried** by all radio and television stations and cable systems or that station or system **must go off the air**. Participation by broadcasters in local, state-level and national weather service activation is voluntary. If carried, the message must be carried in its entirety with no changes.

A. Radio Transmission of an EAS Alert

Radio stations shall fulfill the audio portion of an EAS activation by carrying the entire audio feed from their LP-1 or LP-2 station. Stations are strongly urged to place their EAS encoder/decoders in full automatic relay for incoming messages. Daytime only stations receiving an activation message overnight must, upon arrival, immediately broadcast the alert if the time stamp for that emergency is still valid. If the time stamp for the issued warning or alert has expired, then the station need only note in their log that the message was received.

B. Telecasting an EAS Alert

Television stations shall fulfill the video portion of EAS activation by transmitting a visual message containing the Originator, Event, Location and the valid time period as contained in the EAS digital header signal of an EAS message. If the message is a video crawl, it shall be displayed at the top of the television screen or where it will not interfere with other visual messages. FCC 11.51(D).

Cable systems with 10,000 or more subscribers shall fulfill the video portion of an EAS activation by transmitting the visual EAS message on all channels. The visual message shall contain the Originator, Event, Location and the valid time period as contained in the EAS digital header signal of an EAS message. If the message is a video crawl, it shall be displayed at the top of the subscriber's television screen or where it will not interfere with other visual messages. (FCC 11.51, G-3).

The State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) recognizes many local Cable Television Franchise Authorities have agreements in place with local cable companies to provide audio over-rides or similar emergency alerting capabilities in addition to those required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This plan in no way prohibits any such agreements.

However, Local Franchise Authorities are strongly encouraged to utilize the EAS to disseminate emergency notifications by contacting their local Emergency Management office and requesting activation of the Emergency Alert System. By routing the emergency information through the local Emergency Management office, the maximum number of people, both cable and non-cable television customer, can be notified in the shortest possible time.

XII. GUIDANCE FOR ORIGINATORS OF EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ALERTS

Only those entities specifically authorized by the applicable LAECC and/or the SECC shall input emergency messages into the EAS system. Those entities are listed in Appendix A.

A. *Guidance for National Weather Service Personnel*

NWS personnel issue EAS weather and civil emergency messages via NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) using the NOAA-Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME)/EAS Codes. NWS procedures are followed concerning the transmission of SAME/EAS codes, the NWR 1050 Hz warning alarm, and reading of the weather or CEM bulletin script.

B. *Guidance for Emergency Management Personnel*

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is designed so that agencies with an emergency message need transmit that message only once. In order to generate an EAS message, an EAS encoder is required. The encoder is connected to a communications circuit by which local broadcasters and subject cable operators will receive the message simultaneously, enabling them to deliver it to the general public.

GLOSSARY

Activation

The initiation of the Emergency Alert System by transmission of the Emergency Alert System codes.

ASCII

A standard set of text characters with numerical equivalents.

Attention Signal

Eight seconds of two tones (853 and 960 Hz) used as an audio alert.

Authenticator Word Lists

A list of words used to substantiate authenticity of transmitter and receiver. The list is furnished by NCEM to all SR-1 and SR-2 stations, the seven National Weather Service offices with warning responsibilities in North Carolina, all local emergency management offices and others designated to request activation.

Authorization Letter

The official authorization letter, given by the FCC, for a broadcast station to go off the air during a national level activation of the Emergency Alert System.

Automatic Interruption

The automatic encoding and transmission of Emergency Alert System codes for pre-selected events.

Certification

An equipment authorization issued by the FCC based on representations and test data submitted by the applicant for equipment designated to be operated without individual license under Parts 15 and 18 of the rules.

Decoder (Emergency Alert System)

An electronic device used by Emergency Alert System participants to receive alerts and to translate the Emergency Alert System codes into a visual message.

Emergency Action Notification (EAN)

The message for national Emergency Alert System activation.

Emergency Action Termination (EAT)

The message for national Emergency Alert System termination.

Encoder (Emergency Alert System)

An electronic device used by Emergency Alert System participants to originate Emergency Alert System alerts by creating the Emergency Alert System codes for transmission to other participants and the public.

Encoder (Two-Tone)

A electronic device that produces the two-tone signal.

EOM (end-of-message) Code

In ASCII form 'NNNN', this burst of data, sent three times, signifies the end of an Emergency Alert System message and Emergency Alert System activation.

Event Codes

A three character ASCII code in the Emergency Alert System headers that denotes the type or cause of emergency event.

EZ-Box Line

Device to transfer incoming information to Sage EAS encoder/decoder.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

One of the three federal agencies that administer the Emergency Alert System.

Federal Information Processing System Number (FIPS)

A five character ASCII code in the Emergency Alert System headers that represent those counties affected by an Emergency Alert System activation, as defined by the Federal Information Processing System that assigns each state and territory with their respective counties a five digit number.

Header Signal

A single string of intelligent digital Emergency Alert System ASCII data that includes the originator, event, location, time period, and other basic information concerning an emergency.

Key Source

A source which is central to the dissemination of emergency alerts and information, such as National Primary, State Primary, State Relay or Local Primary broadcast stations or cable systems.

Local Primary (LP)

A source within an Emergency Alert System Local Area that is the primary source of Emergency Alert System programming for that area.

Location Code

An ASCII code in an Emergency Alert System header that specifies the location of an emergency utilizing the five character Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) code of a state and county, and a sixth character to designate nine divisions of a county.

Monitoring Assignment

The off-air broadcast or cable sources of Emergency Alert System activations and programming as given in the FCC Mapbook and the state plan.

National Information Center (NIC)

A source of official federal government information.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

One of the three federal agencies that participate in Emergency Alert System.

National Originator Codes

Originator codes required by the FCC.

National Periodic Test (NPT)

A test of National Primary Emergency Alert System sources.

National Primary (NP)

A primary source of Presidential or other national Emergency Alert System activations and programming, including broadcast stations involved with the PEP system and EAN Networks.

National Weather Service (NWS)

An operation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration directly responsible for issuing local weather-related emergency alerts and warnings in addition to day-to-day forecasts and other weather activities. Upon request by a local authority, the NWS will disseminate civil emergency messages.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

A service of the National Weather Service that provides to a local area continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information, weather-related emergency warnings and civil emergency EAS messages using one of seven VHF radio channels.

Non-participating National (NPN)

An Emergency Alert System source (usually a broadcast station) that has elected not to participate in the National-level Emergency Alert System and removes its carrier from the air if a national-level activation occurs.

Operating Handbook

A document issued by the FCC that instructs broadcast station and cable personnel of the actions they must take during an activation of Emergency Alert System.

Participating National (PN)

Broadcast stations, cable systems, or MDS stations which monitor primary sources of Emergency Alert System programming and directly feed emergency alerts to the public.

Preselected Code

Broadcast stations, cable systems, or MDS stations which monitor primary sources of Emergency Alert System programming and directly feed emergency alerts to the public.

Primary Entry Point (PEP)

Key broadcast stations throughout the U.S. that together can provide national emergency information.

Protocol

A standard set of guidelines by which digital information encoded and decoded, including the common code structure, character set used, the sequence and timing of codes, and modulation technique used for radio transmission.

Program Priorities

The precedence of the information that must be transmitted during an Emergency Alert System activation, namely national, local, and state activations in that order.

Required Monthly Test (RMT)

A coordinated monthly test of Emergency Alert System operations involving the full receiving and transmission of Emergency Alert System codes, Attention Signal, Emergency Alert System test programming, and Emergency Alert System end-of-message (EOM) codes.

Required Weekly Test (RWT)

An independent weekly test of Emergency Alert System equipment only involving the decoding and encoding of Emergency Alert System header codes and end-of-message (EOM) codes.

State/Local Plan

A document that details monitoring assignments and actions to be taken in emergency activations, and other guidance for broadcasters and cable personnel in use of the Emergency Alert System. Each locality is responsible for maintaining a current local plan.

State Primary (SP)

A primary source of Emergency Alert System state programming which can originate with a Governor or designated representative, such as a state's emergency operations officer.

State Relay (SR)

An entity which receives and retransmits Emergency Alert System activations in a State Relay Network to assist in bringing a state activation to all Emergency Alert System Local Area of a state.

State Relay Network

A system of facilities used to distribute State Emergency Alert System activations and programming across a state.

Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoder (WRSAME)

A device used by National Weather Service to broadcast WRSAME data on the National Weather Radio for day-to-day forecasts and weather related emergency announcements.

ACRONYMS

C

CAE	--	Child abduction emergency
CFR	--	Code of Federal Regulations
CEM	--	Civil Emergency Message
CEMC	--	County Emergency Management Coordinator
CIV	--	Civil Authorities
CPG	--	Civil Preparedness Guides

D

DMA	--	Designated Market Area
-----	----	------------------------

E

EAN	--	Emergency Action Notification.
EAS	--	Emergency Alert System
EAS-AP	--	EAS Activation Point
EASnet	--	Emergency Management Network
EAT	--	Emergency Action Termination.
ENDEC	--	Encoder/decoder
EOC	--	Emergency Operations Center
EOM	--	End-of-message

F

FEMA	--	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FCC	--	Federal Communication Commission
FIPS	--	Federal Information Processing System Codes
FNF	--	Fixed Nuclear Facility

L

LAECC	--	Local Area Emergency Communications Committees
LPTV	--	Low power TV
LP1	--	Local Primary 1 (lead station)
LP2	--	Local Primary 2 (back-up station)

N

NC CAN	--	North Carolina Child Alert Notification
NC CMP	--	North Carolina Center for Missing Persons
NC SECC	--	North Carolina State Emergency Communications Committee
NCEM	--	North Carolina Emergency Management
NIC	--	National Information Center
NN	--	Non-participating National
NOAA	--	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NP	--	National Primary
NPT	--	National Periodic Test
NWR	--	National Weather Radio
NWS	--	National Weather Service

		<u>P</u>
PEP	--	Primary Entry Point stations.
PN	--	Participating National
		<u>R</u>
RMT	--	Required Monthly Test
RWT	--	Required Weekly Test
		<u>S</u>
SAME	--	Specific Area Message Encoder
SECC	--	State Emergency Communications Committee
SP1	--	State Primary 1
SP2	--	State Primary 2. Backup to SP1.
SR	--	State Relay Station
SRN	--	State Relay Network
		<u>W</u>
WHCA	--	White House Communication Agency
WRSAME	--	Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoder

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
Roster of Entities Authorized to Activate the Emergency Alert System

- Governor, State of North Carolina
- Secretary, Crime Control & Public Safety
- Director, State of North Carolina Division of Emergency Management
- State Emergency Response Team Leader
- NC Emergency Management Duty Officer
- Senior Communications Officer on duty
- The Director of NC Center for Missing Persons or designated representative
- An EM county coordinator or local government authority may contact the local National Weather Service office and request NWS to issue a Civil Emergency Message over NOAA Weather Radio
- An EM county coordinator may initiate an EAS message, or relay a request from a county manager or local emergency worker, by notifying the State EOC via fax. A CEMC based inside the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone may use the EZ-Box to report an incident.
- A local broadcast station may initiate an EAS announcement based on observations of its own personnel

APPENDIX B
State of North Carolina Emergency Communications Committee

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (SECC)

The State Emergency Communications Committee Chairman and Co-Chairmen for radio, television, cable and utility are appointed by the Federal Communications Commission. The chairman and co-chairman of the ten Local Area Emergency Communications Committees and other voluntary members appointed by the SECC Chairman are also members of the SECC.

Chairman

Mr. Carl Venters
148 Edgewater Lane
Wilmington, N.C. 28405
Avenue
910-256-6765

Utility Co-Chairman

Mr. Rick Wallace
BellSouth
5215 Glenwood Ave
Raleigh, N.C. 27612
919-783-1240

Cable Co-Chairman

Mr. Mark Eagle
AOL / Time Warner
101 Innovation
Morrisville, N.C. 27560
919-573-7083

Radio Co-Chairman

Mr. Keith Harrison
Capitol Broadcasting
711 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, N.C. 27605
919-890-6101

TV Co-Chairman

Mr. Jim Gamble
WRAZ-TV
P.O. Box 30050
Durham, N.C. 27702
919-595-5050

LOCAL AREA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (LAECC)

The Local Area Emergency Communications Committee (LAECC) Chair and Co-Chair are appointed by the FCC. Members are appointed to the LAECC by the Area Chairman. The LAECC's are subcommittees of the SECC. The LAECC Chairman and Co-Chairman for the ten Local Areas in North Carolina are as follows:

ASHEVILLE LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Tom Atema
WMIT-FM
P.O. Box 159
Black Mountain, N.C. 28711
828-669-8477

Co-Chairman

Mr. Wally Gantt
BellSouth
4100 South Stream Blvd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28217
704-424-1520

CHARLOTTE LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Ron Tollison
WLNK-FM
One Julian Price Place
Charlotte, N.C. 28208
704-374-3521

Co-Chairman

Mr. Wally Gantt
BellSouth
4100 South Stream Blvd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28217
704-424-1520

COLUMBIA LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Randy Gill
WRSF-FM
P.O. Box 1418
Nags Head, N.C. 27959
252-792-9058

Co-Chairman

Mr. David Bridger
Sprint Telephone
P.O. Box 829
Williamston, N.C. 27892
252-792-9058

FAYETTEVILLE LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. C.J. Jones
WQSM-FM
P.O. Box 35297
Fayetteville, N.C. 28303
910-864-5222

Co-Chairman

Mr. Peter O'Toole
Sprint Telephone
717 McGilvary Street
Fayetteville, N.C. 28301
910-323-9031

GOLDSBORO LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Ben Brinitzer
WRDU-FM
3100 Smoketree Court
Raleigh, N.C. 27604
919-874-9850

Co-Chairman

Mr. Dan Herring
Sprint Telephone
3930 Sunset Avenue
Rocky Mount, N.C. 27804
252-977-9008

RALEIGH LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Paul Michels
Curtis Media
3012 Highwoods Blvd.
Raleigh, N.C. 27604
919-876-674

Co-Chairman

Mr. Eric Sommer
BellSouth
5215 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, N.C. 27612
919-785-7704

STATESVILLE LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Dave Kester
WFMX-FM
1117 Radio Road
Statesville, N.C. 28677
704-872-6345

Co-Chairman

Mr. John Wilkinson
BellSouth
100 South Eugene Street
Greensboro, N.C. 27401
336-333-3205

TRIAD LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Galies Stuckey
WKXU-FM
P.O. Box 1119
Burlington, N.C. 27216
336-584-0126

Co-Chairman

Mr. John Wilkinson
BellSouth
100 South Eugene Street
Greensboro, N.C. 27401
336-333-3205

WASHINGTON LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Ken Salyer
WRNS-FM
2030 Banks School Road
Kinston, N.C.
252-28504

Co-Chairman

Mr. David Bridger
Sprint Telephone
P.O. Box 829
Williamston, N.C. 27892
252-792-9058

WILMINGTON LOCAL AREA

Chairman

Mr. Tim Nelson
WMNX-FM
P.O. Box 5307
Wilmington, N.C. 28403
910-763-6511

Co-Chairman

Mr. Eric Sommer
Bell South
5215 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, N.C. 27612
919-785-7704

MEMBER AT LARGE

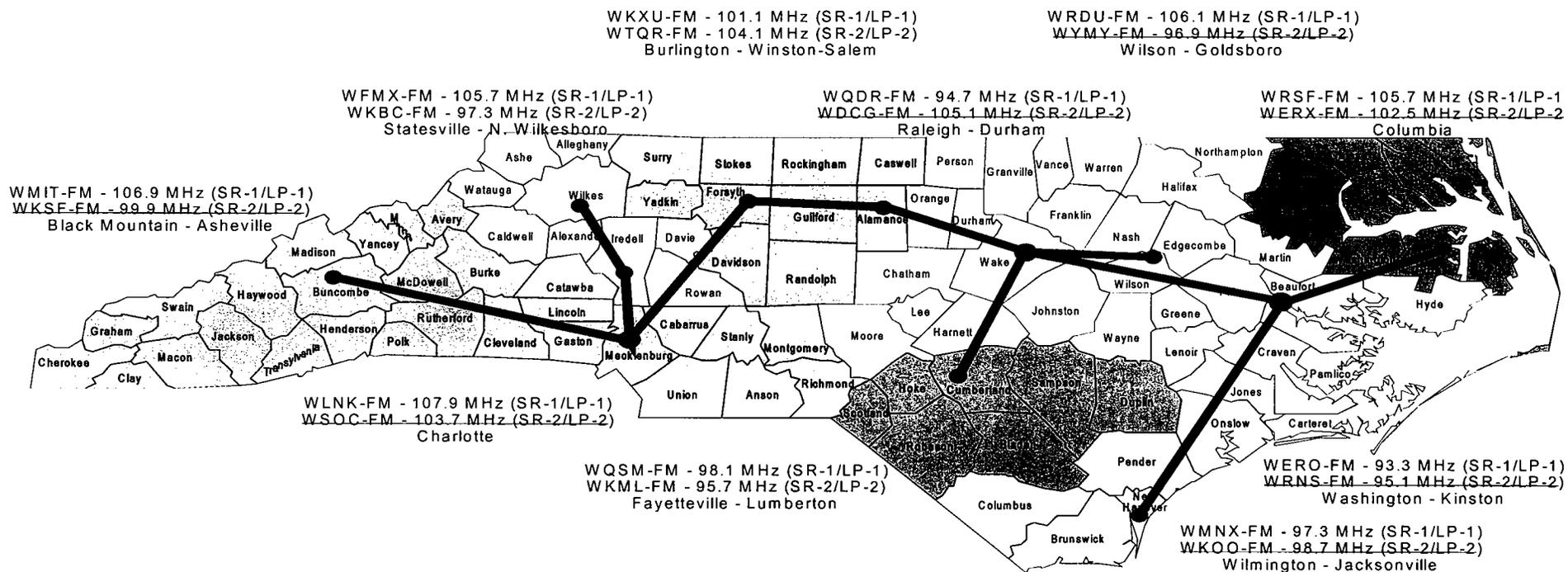
Mr. Steve Harned
Manager
National Weather Service
105 Capability Drive
Raleigh, N.C. 27606
919-515-8211

MEMBER AT LARGE

Mr. Gary Faltinowski
EAS Coordinator
NC Emergency Management
4713 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4713

APPENDIX C
State of North Carolina Emergency Alert System

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)



Colors represent Local Areas
 SR-1 (State Relay - 1)
 SR-2 (State Relay - 2)
 LP-1 (Local Primary - 1)
 LP-2 (Local Primary - 2)

APPENDIX D
Emergency Alert System "Daisy Chain" Network

WQDR-FM (Raleigh) is the EAS State Primary (SP-1), and WDCG-FM (Durham) is the EAS State Primary-2 (SP-2). WQDR-FM (94.7) and WDCG-FM (105.1) serve as the LP-1 and LP-2 respectively for the Raleigh Local Area. State relay stations are FCC Class C-1 or better licensees.

In the over the air, "daisy chain" network, when WQDR-FM *originates* a statewide EAS message, the outbound pattern for the LP-1-Network is:

WQDR-FM alerts:	WQSM-FM (98.1),	Fayetteville Local Area
	WRDU-FM (106.1),	Goldsboro Local Area
	WKXU-FM (101.1),	Triad Local Area
	WERO-FM (93.3),	Washington Local Area
WKXU-FM alerts	WTQR-FM (104.1),	Winston-Salem (Triad Local Area)
WTQR-FM alerts	WLNK-FM (107.9),	Charlotte (Charlotte Local Area)
WLNK-FM alerts	WMIT-FM (106.9)	Asheville Local Area
WLNK-FM alerts	WFMX-FM (105.7)	Statesville Local Area
WERO-FM alerts	WRSF-FM (105.7)	Columbia Local Area
WERO-FM alerts	WMNX-FM (97.3)	Wilmington Local Area

When WDCG-FM *originates* a statewide EAS message, the outbound pattern for the LP-2 Network is:

WDCG-FM alerts:	WYMY-FM (96.9),	Goldsboro
	WTQR-FM (104.1),	Winston-Salem
	WRNS-FM (95.1),	Kinston
	WKML-FM (95.7),	Fayetteville and in turn
WYMY-FM alerts	WRNS-FM (95.1),	Kinston
WRNS-FM alerts	WERX-FM (102.5),	Edenton and WKOO-FM (98.7), Jacksonville
WTQR-FM alerts	WSOC-FM (103.7),	Charlotte
WSOC-FM alerts	WKSF-FM (99.9),	Asheville and WKBC-FM (97.3) North
Wilkesboro		

APPENDIX E
EAS Monitoring Assignments by Local Area

MONITORING ASSIGNMENTS BY LOCAL AREA

ASHEVILLE LOCAL AREA

WMIT-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WLNK-FM, WKSF-FM, NWS & EASnet

WKSF-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WMIT-FM, WSOC-FM, NWS & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey which compose the Asheville Local Area, will monitor WMIT-FM, WKSF-FM and NWS Radio.

CHARLOTTE LOCAL AREA

WLNK-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WTQR-FM, WSOC-FM, NWS & EASnet

WSOC-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WLNK-FM, WTQR-FM, NWS & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Richmond, Stanly and Union which compose the Charlotte Local Area and monitor WLNK-FM, WSOC-FM and NWS Radio.

COLUMBIA LOCAL AREA

WRSF-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WERO-FM, WERX-FM, NWS & EASnet

WERX-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WRSF-FM, WERO-FM, NWS & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington which compose the Columbia Local Area will monitor WRSF-FM, WERX-FM and NWS Radio.

FAYETTEVILLE LOCAL AREA

WQSM-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WQDR-FM, WKML-FM, NWS & EASnet

WKML-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WQSM-FM, WDCG-FM, NWS & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Scotland, Robeson, Bladen, Hoke, Sampson, Duplin and Cumberland which compose the Fayetteville Local Area will monitor WQSM-FM, WKML-FM and NWS Radio.

GOLDSBORO LOCAL AREA

WRDU-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WQDR-FM, WYMY-FM, NWS & EASnet.

WYMY-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WRDU-FM, WDCG-FM, NWS & EASnet.

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Wilson, Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, Northampton and Wayne which compose the Goldsboro Local Area will monitor WRDU-FM, WYMY-FM, and NWS Radio.

RALEIGH LOCAL AREA

WQDR-FM (SP-1/LP-1) monitors: WDCG-FM, WKXU-FM, NWS & EASnet.
WDCG-FM (SP-2/LP-2) monitors: WQDR-FM, WKXU-FM, NWS & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake and Warren, which compose the Raleigh Local Area will monitor WQDR-FM, WDCG-FM, and NWS Radio.

STATESVILLE LOCAL AREA

WFMX-FM monitors: WLNK-FM, WKBC-FM, NWS & EASnet
WKBC-FM monitors: WFMX-FM, WMIT-FM, NWS & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Caldwell, Davie, Iredell, Rowan, Watauga and Wilkes which compose the Statesville Local Area will monitor WFMX-FM, WKBC-FM and NWS Radio.

TRIAD LOCAL AREA

WKXU-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WQDR-FM, WTQR-FM, NWS & EASnet.
WTQR-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WKXU-FM, WFMX-FM, NWS & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Alamance, Caswell, Randolph, Guilford, Rockingham, Stokes, Forsyth, Davidson, Yadkin and Surry which compose the Triad Local Area will monitor WKXU-FM, WTQR-FM, and NWS Radio.

WASHINGTON LOCAL AREA

WERO-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WQDR-FM, WRNS-FM, NWS, & EASnet.
WRNS-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WERO-FM, WYMY-FM, NWS, & EASnet

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Martin, Beaufort, Pitt, Greene, Lenoir, Jones, Carteret, Craven, Pamlico, and Hyde which compose the Washington Local Area will monitor WERO-FM, WRNS-FM, and NWS Radio.

WILMINGTON LOCAL AREA

WMNX-FM (SR-1/LP-1) monitors: WERO-FM, WKOQ-FM, NWS & EASnet.
WKOQ-FM (SR-2/LP-2) monitors: WMNX-FM, WRNS-FM, NWS & EASnet.

All radio and television stations with city of license and cable operators with their franchise agreements in the counties of Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Pender and Onslow which compose the Wilmington Local Area will monitor WMNX-FM, WKOQ-FM and NWS Radio.

APPENDIX F
National-level Emergency Alert System

I. GENERAL

This Appendix provides background information on the national level of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Participants in the State and local EAS planning should be aware of this information to understand how their organization level contributes to the nationwide system, and how their operations could be impacted by a nationwide activation.

II. NATIONAL LEVEL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The President requires a reliable means for communicating with the American public on short notice during periods of national crisis or major emergency to provide reassurance and direction regarding response and recovery. The President must be able to address the nation on AM and FM radio, as well as television and cable television audio, within ten minutes of an activation notice. In addition, the President must be able to address the nation on live television, audio and video, upon arrival at a designated television studio. This capability must exist under a variety of conditions, i.e., before, during, and after the situation or attack. Once activated, the national-level EAS remains available for the dissemination of high priority national programming. These capabilities must also be available to any Presidential successors.

III. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

When activated, the national-level EAS consists of a nationwide network of voluntary communications entities. The system is designed to maintain communications with the general public in the event of an attack, a threat of war, a state of public peril, disaster, or other national emergency. Each EAS source assumes the responsibility for serving a specifically designated area known in the EAS as a Local Area. Serving the Local Area involves disseminating local area instructions, news and information, Presidential messages, Governors' messages, State information, national programming and news.

IV. ACTIVATION AUTHORITY

The authority to activate the national-level EAS rests solely with the President of the United States. The following sequence activates the national-level EAS.

A. Presidential Decision

A Presidential Decision to activate the EAS is made, and then passed to the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) for implementation.

B. The White House Communications Agency Contacts the Federal Emergency Management Agency

The White House Communication Agency (WHCA) will contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with EAS implementation instructions.

C. The Federal Emergency Management Agency Relays the Order

FEMA, using a network, relays the Emergency Action Notice (EAN) order information to the communications industry.

1. Communications Entities

FEMA transmits the EAN to the National Primary (NP) broadcast entities using the EAS system. The NP in North Carolina is WQDR-FM (94.7) in Raleigh.

2. Relay

The EAN is relayed from the PEP stations to the State EAS Network control points and then to all stations and cable systems.

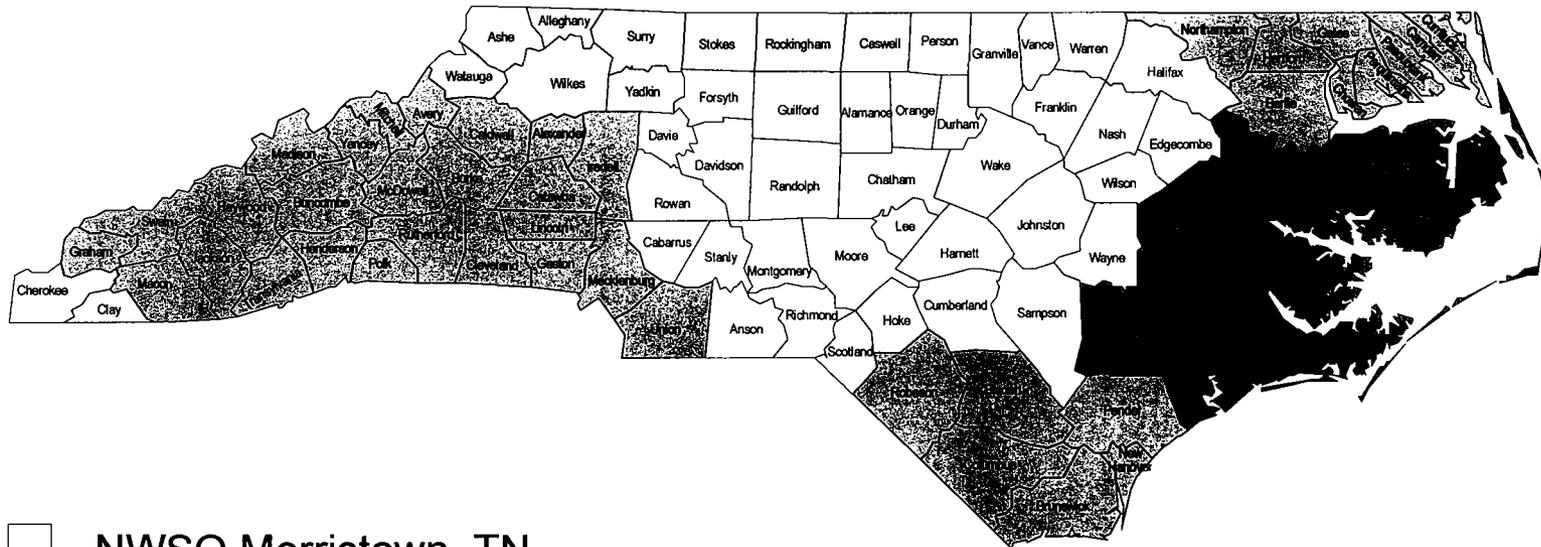
V. PROGRAMMING

Voice circuits are in place for EAS programming at all times and can be originated at FEMA.

VI. TERMINATION

At the conclusion of an incident when the national-level EAS is no longer needed, a termination order is issued. At the conclusion of the EAS program, the WHCA Trip Officer issues a termination order over the program circuitry. FEMA then transmits an Emergency Action Termination (EAT) message. The termination order is then relayed along the EAS network to all EAS participants.

APPENDIX G
National Weather Service Forecast Area Map
National Weather Service Forecast Areas



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NWSO Morristown, TN | <input type="checkbox"/> | NWSO Wilmington, NC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NWSO Greer, SC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NWSO Newport, NC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NWSO Blacksburg, VA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NWSO Wakefield, VA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NWSO Raleigh, NC | | |

APPENDIX I
Emergency Alert System Event Codes

Table 8. National Event Codes

Nature of Activation	Event Codes
Emergency Action Notification (National Only)	EAN
Emergency Action Termination (National Only)	EAT
National Information Center	NIC
National Periodic Test	NPT
Required Monthly Test	RMT
Required Weekly Test	RWT

Table 9. Local Event Codes

Nature of Activation	Event Codes
Administrative Message	ADR
Blizzard Warning	BZW
Child Abduction Emergency	CAE
Civil Emergency Message	CEM
Evacuation Immediate	EVI
Flash Flood Statement	FFS
Flash Flood Warning	FFW
Flash Flood Watch	FFA
Flood Statement	FLS
Flood Warning	FLW
Flood Watch	FLA
High Wind Warning	HWW
High Wind Watch	HWA
Hurricane Statement	HLS
Hurricane Warning	HUW
Hurricane Watch	HUA
Nuclear Power Plant Warning	NUW
Practice/Demo Warning	DMO
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	SVR
Severe Thunderstorm Watch	SVA
Severe Weather Statement	SVS
Special Weather Statement	SPS
Tornado Warning	TOR
Tornado Watch	TOA
Winter Storm Warning	WSW
Winter Storm Watch	WSA
NOTE: Codes in BOLD are required to be	programmed into your EAS receiver.

APPENDIX J
Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) Codes

FIPS CODES

STATE NAME: North Carolina
CODE: NC

STATE CODE: 37

ALPHABETIC

001	Alamance	003	Alexander	005	Alleghany
007	Anson	009	Ashe	011	Avery
013	Beaufort	015	Bertie	017	Bladen
019	Brunswick	021	Buncombe	023	Burke
025	Cabarrus	027	Caldwell	029	Camden
031	Carteret	033	Caswell	035	Catawba
037	Chatham	039	Cherokee	041	Chowan
043	Clay	045	Cleveland	047	Columbus
049	Craven	051	Cumberland	053	Currituck
055	Dare	057	Davidson	059	Davie
061	Duplin	063	Durham	065	Edgecombe
067	Forsyth	069	Franklin	071	Gaston
073	Gates	075	Graham	077	Granville
079	Greene	081	Guilford	083	Halifax
085	Harnett	087	Haywood	089	Henderson
091	Hertford	093	Hoke	095	Hyde
097	Iredell	099	Jackson	101	Johnston
103	Jones	05	Lee	107	Lenoir
109	Lincoln	111	McDowell	113	Macon
115	Madison	117	Martin	119	Mecklenburg
121	Mitchell	123	Montgomery	125	Moore
127	Nash	129	New Hanover	131	Northampton
133	Onslow	135	Orange	137	Pamlico
139	Pasquotank	141	Pender	143	Perquimans
145	Person	147	Pitt	149	Polk
151	Randolph	153	Richmond	155	Robeson
157	Rockingham	159	Rowan	161	Rutherford
163	Sampson	165	Scotland	167	Stanly
169	Stokes	171	Surry	173	Swain
175	Transylvania	177	Tyrrell	179	Union
181	Vance	183	Wake	185	Warren
187	Washington	189	Watauga	191	Wayne
193	Wilkes	195	Wilson	197	Yadkin
199	Yancey				

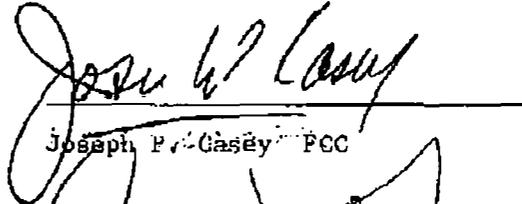
APPROVALS

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM STATE PLAN

January 30, 2003



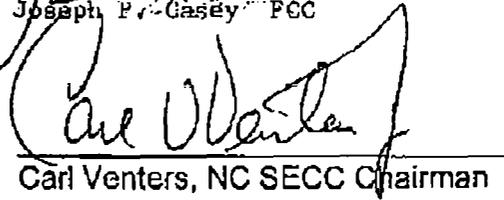
Gov. Michael F. Easley



Joseph P. Gasely PCC



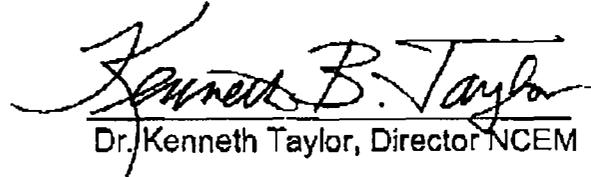
Bryan E. Beatty CC&PS



Carl Venters, NC SECC Chairman



Steve Harned, NWS



Dr. Kenneth Taylor, Director NCEM