

EAS and you: a love story?

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EAS Best Practices

Find and follow your State EAS plan.

Check the FCC at <https://www.fcc.gov/SECC-Resources> to find your SECC chair.

Print out the EAS handbook and post it at every control point!

Care and feeding of ENDECS for testing

- ▶ Review the logs weekly.
- ▶ You **MUST** verify that you have reviewed the EAS log each week. Simply storing it in your box is not enough.
- ▶ Check your sources. Make sure the reception is good and that the incoming levels are OK.
- ▶ Subscribe to local EAS mailing lists if available. Make sure to get something in writing from a monitored station if a test is missed to keep with your logs.
- ▶ Make sure to keep the software and certificates updated!
- ▶ There has been recent guidance that in the event that you can't receive a monitored source that you should tune in any available station. However, that should be temporary, and a waiver should be sought.

Missed test?

- ▶ In the event that there is a missed RWT or RMT, you need to do the following:
- ▶ If it was a test that you should have *received*, you need to contact a representative of the facility that you should have gotten the test from and verify that the test was sent. If it was *not* sent, you need to attach a note to your station log noting that the test was not sent. You do not need to have an explanation for why the test was not sent. If the test *was* sent, but you did not receive it, you must investigate and note in your station log why the test wasn't received and whether you've made repairs.
- ▶ If you missed sending a test, you must note in your log why the test was missed.

Broken EAS?

- ▶ There isn't yet an official notification procedure or deadline with the FCC regarding failed EAS units.....yet.
- ▶ If your EAS unit fails, you must make a note in your log with the date the unit was taken out of service. It's a good idea to note every week that your EAS unit is not functional.
- ▶ It is a good idea to document the steps taken to get your unit repaired. If an inspection happens, the FCC will want to verify that you indeed have an EAS unit, and that you're making a good-faith effort to have the unit repaired.

WSJY/WFAW Ft. Atkinson, WI WKCH Whitewater, WI WWTY Racine, WI Station Log

Week of: 7/17/23

I have reviewed the station operations for the one week period specified above. This review indicates that any required log entries have been made properly and that the station operated within the requirements of the FCC and the station authorization, unless noted below. Any required corrective action is also noted below, and the licensee of the station has been advised of any repetitive unacceptable conditions.



Digitally signed by
Christopher Tarr
DN: cn=Christopher Tarr
c=US o=Magnum
Communications
ou=Engineering
e=chris@magnum.media
Reason: I am the author of
this document
Location:
Date: 2023-07-24 18:30-05:00

Chief Operator's Signature

Date

NOTE: This station operates without continuous human supervision in accordance with FCC

This document has been certified by Christopher Tarr. ✕

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Highlight form fields

What should be forwarded on-air?

- ▶ Check your state EAS plan. That is the official document!
- ▶ If everything is an emergency, nothing is.
- ▶ Avoid relying on your EAS system to be the “severe weather reporter” for your station.
- ▶ Better to forward warnings (such as SVR or TOR) rather than watches (SVA, TOA, etc). You want your audience to pay attention to the alerts!
- ▶ Avoid adding too much delay on the timer for severe weather. Sometimes seconds count.
- ▶ Many systems allow for dayparting, so that you can set timers during manned hours, and immediately forward during unmanned hours.

How Amber Alerts work (in Wisconsin)

- ▶ A request for an alert is issued by a local agency based on several factors. That alert is sent to the Amber Alert team at the Wisconsin DOJ
- ▶ That request is reviewed and only issued if the request meets very specific criteria. There are many alert requests that are denied each year.
- ▶ The alerts run every half hour, then every hour until the alert is no longer necessary, or it expires.
- ▶ According to the DOJ, the alerts have been key to solving several cases, and they are very appreciative of the participation by broadcasters.
- ▶ After every single alert, there is a meeting with stakeholders - including broadcasters to review what went right and wrong. If you notice anything wrong, be sure to contact the SECC.

What's new?

- ▶ The FCC has required the state SECC's file a plan to the FCC/FEMA for approval. There are several guidelines that the states must follow. Wisconsin's was approved in February.
- ▶ The FCC *requires* stations to adhere to the state plan.
- ▶ If you don't have a copy of the plan, contact your SECC chair.
- ▶ Post the plan with your EAS handbooks.

THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!!

- ▶ FCC Docket No. 15-94: Amendment to Part 11

Major Changes

- ▶ Stations must change frequency to 640 or 1240kHz
- ▶ Stations must cycle between carrier on and carrier off every five seconds
- ▶ Messages must be sent “round robin”, with each station turning carrier off when not broadcasting a message

What do you need to know?

- ▶ NEW FIRMWARE!
- ▶ When will we see it?



What do you need to know?

- ▶ Overall improvement in information quality.
- ▶ The FCC has revised the rules to improve the quality of alerts over radio and television.

Changes:

- ▶ Encoders need to check for a CAP version of a “legacy” alert and broadcast the CAP version if available.
- ▶ “Emergency Action Notification” becomes “National Emergency Message”.
- ▶ National originator changes from “Primary Entry Point” to “United States Government”.
- ▶ National tests change from “National Periodic Test” to “National Test of the Emergency Alert System”.

See anything in common?

What doesn't change?

- ▶ Continue to poll the FEMA IPAWS server to detect CAP messages.
- ▶ Continue to follow procedures set in the local and state EAS plans.

New changes:

- ▶ Participants that receive both “legacy” and CAP alerts are to distribute the CAP alert instead of the “legacy” one.
- ▶ Participants must poll IPAWS at least once ten seconds after detecting the header of a “legacy” alert before forwarding that alert. If the CAP alert is received, that is the alert they must forward. This includes RMT’s
- ▶ TV stations must update their equipment to reflect the new codes and originator names, using a new standard-script video display for NPT nationwide test alerts that have been received in “legacy format”, instead of constructing a visual display from the legacy codes.



Thank you!

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