

BRIEFING SHEET: THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)



The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system used by authorities to deliver emergency alerts to affected communities.



WHO SENDS EAS ALERTS?

The FCC does not create or transmit emergency alerts.



**UNITED
STATES
GOVERNMENT**



**NATIONAL
WEATHER
SERVICE**



**STATE, LOCAL,
COUNTY, &
TRIBAL
GOVERNMENTS**

TYPES OF EAS ALERTS INCLUDE:



**SEVERE
WEATHER
WARNINGS**



**AMBER
ALERTS**



**NATIONAL
EMERGENCY
MESSAGES
(EAN)**

EAS participants deliver state and local emergency alerts on a voluntary basis, but are required to transmit certain tests and any EAN.

EAS TECHNOLOGY AND DELIVERY

Alerts delivered by over-the-air broadcasts use the EAS Protocol, which utilizes fixed alert codes to identify elements of an alert, to relay messages through a “daisy chain” of EAS participants. Alerts delivered by Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) use the Common Alerting Protocol, which allows inclusion of audio, video and data files, images, non-English translations, and internet links.

EAS PARTICIPANTS



**Wireline
video
providers**



**Satellite radio
and television
providers**



**Television
broadcasters**



**Radio
broadcasters**



**Cable systems
and others set forth by
47 CFR § 11.11.**

FEMA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIONAL-LEVEL ACTIVATION, TESTS, AND EAS EXERCISES.

Most EAS alerts are delivered to Participants via the internet or over-the-air broadcast.

THE FCC AND EAS



The FCC:

- Establishes technical standards, procedures, and testing protocols for EAS participants to follow.
- Safeguards EAS by enforcing prohibitions against misuse of EAS attention signals and alert codes.

QUESTIONS?

Contact alerting@fcc.gov